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CDA aims to meet with CUC over debt suspension request. » PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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DENNIS B. CHAN

An Outer Cove Marina gangway has collapsed from a lack of rebar enforcement, raising questions about the safety of the other gangways at the cove.

Outer Cove Marina gangway collapse reveals poor design

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The sudden collapse of a gangway at Outer Cove Marina on Wednesday revealed it was lacking in rebar reinforcement, according to Department of Land and Natural Resources Secretary Richard Seman yesterday.

See MARINA on Page 4

Marpi Cemetery to open 2nd week of September

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Saipan will finally have a solution to its lack of burial sites after Department of Land and Natural Resources Secretary Richard Seman said the Marpi Cemetery will finally open in the second week of September.

"We're happy that the cemetery is finally moving forward and it will be open because the cemetery at Mt. Carmel is full and it is time to use what was given years ago. Although it is far away, it is a non-denominational public cemetery and other people can use it," Seman said.

"We're preparing for the grand opening and the bid is out for facilities but we will still do the maintenance and get to move the project toward the second week of September," he added.

To this end, former House speaker Oscar Babauta said he is currently working on the bidding process for the cemetery.

"We have an invitation to bid for the construction of the generator housing, the procurement of a generator, and the wiring of the facility to power the big water well and provide power for the water pump," said Babauta, who has

See MARPI on Page 4

Pilot NCD survey set for September

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

» CNMI NCD survey kick-starter for various future surveys in Pacific

The Division of Public Health will be implementing a pilot survey for non-communicable diseases, or NCDs, starting Sept. 5 that will serve as the baseline survey on health in the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña announced the start of the survey after a meeting with public health officials and three Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials yesterday morning.

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This weekend's Tournament of Champions promises to be the most exciting one yet.
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2015 Miss Marianas Jian Joyner had an epiphany while plummeting to earth.
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NMC partners up with Coldwell Solar International to provide 8 high school students with scholarships

(NMC) – Northern Marianas College has announced that it has awarded Coldwell Solar Scholarships to eight deserving high school students who will be dual enrolled students.

The Coldwell Solar Scholarship, sponsored by Coldwell Solar International, is designed to provide college-ready high school students with access to enrollment in college level courses at Northern Marianas College while currently enrolled in high school. Each scholarship award covers the cost of tuition, fees, and books for enrollment in up to two courses in an academic year.

"The scholarships from Coldwell provides much-needed financial assistance for high school student who want to get an early start on their college journey," said NMC President Dr. Sharon Hart. "We congratulate the recipients of this scholarship and express our deepest appreciation to Coldwell Solar International for partnering with NMC to make this scholarship program possible, This is the first company to step forward to provide for students presently enrolled in high school but are eligible for federal financial aid."

According to Leo Pangelinan, NMC Dean of Student Services, applicants for the scholarship needed to write an essay regarding the impact of the use of renewable energy sources in the CNMI. "It's clear the awardees this year had put a lot of thought and research into the opportunities and challenges for alternative energy in the CNMI. I hope this award serves as a catalyst for more of our high school graduates to study the problem of providing electric utilities to our community."

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE AND COLDWELL SOLAR INTERNATIONAL RECENTLY PRESENTED SCHOLARSHIPS TO EIGHT DESERVING STUDENTS. THE RECIPIENTS ARE, SEATED FROM LEFT, DIANNE M. ARNOLD, CAMILLE JOY MASILUNGAN, BALBINA MARIANA P. CONCEPCION, LILLY JEAN K. BAUTISTA, REBEKAH H. KIM, CORALAINE C. CAMACHO, CAMILLE JOYCE M. RICAFORT, AND ROBERT L. SOLIS. ALSO IN PHOTO ARE, SECOND ROW, FROM LEFT, CHAVEL GREEN, BUSINESS DEPARTMENT CHAIR; TIMOTHY KOCK, NMC-CREES DIRECTOR; BARBARA MARFALEN, DEAN OF ACADEMICS & PROGRAMS AND SERVICES; JAMES GLENN, NMC FOUNDATION DIRECTOR; DR. SHARON HART, NMC PRESIDENT; GREG KOEBEL, COLDWELL SOLAR INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE; LEO PANGELINAN, DEAN OF STUDENT SERVICES; JOANA PALERO, FINANCIAL AID SPECIALIST; AND THERESA WORSWICK, NMC COUNSELOR. NMC PHOTO

The recipients of the scholarship include Dianne M. Arnold, Grace Christian Academy; Lilly Jean K. Bautista, Kagman High School; Corlaine C. Camacho, Marianas High School; Balbina Mariana P. Concepcion, Marianas High School; Rebekah H. Kim, Northern Marianas Academy; Camille Joy Masilungan, Grace Christian Academy; Camille Joyce M. Ricafort, Marianas High School; and Robert L. Solis, Northern Marianas Academy.

Each student will be receiving more than $1,000 in scholarship funds.

Coldwell Solar International is a commercial solar provider licensed in the CNMI and is located at the Marianas Business Plaza. Its parent company, Coldwell Solar Inc. is based in Rocklin, with offices in Visalia, Burbank and Petaluma, California, Arizona and New Mexico. The company is dedicated to providing effective, reliable and efficient solar energy solutions and services to business and utility clients.

"Coldwell Solar is always happy to provide an avenue for students to continue their education," said Coldwell Solar CEO Dave Hood. "This is a great new program to encourage high school students to go on to college. We will continue to support these types of programs and activities on Saipan and the CNMI." Dr. Hart had met with CEO Dave Hood and his staff earlier this year in Rocklin to discuss the interest in providing scholarships to NMC student.

"Our mission for the CNMI is to reduce utility costs by providing alternative commercial and utility scale solar projects," Hood added.

AS DENTONS RELEASES INITIAL FINDINGS

Torres urges more comments on draft EIS

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Ralph DLG. Torres is urging CNMI residents to submit more comments on the draft environmental impact statement issued by the U.S. military.

This, after Dentons US LLP and its partner Environmental Science Associates released a list of its initial findings on the draft EIS.

Dentons has been hired by the CNMI government to review the impact statements and—if necessary—give recommendations to the government.

"The document is the result of numerous discussions between [the Inos] administration and Dentons following several reads of the draft EIS and seeing again and again that the Department of the Navy failed to comply with the NEPA regulations in their draft EIS," Torres said.

The official said the CNMI "needed a comprehensive list of these inadequacies and Dentons assisted in the production of this document."

"This is an overview of the inadequacies, but in speaking to the folks in our departments working on issue-specific comments, the number of concerns that need to be seriously addressed by the Navy is quite large," he said.

Torres said it is his "hope that more and more residents of the CNMI would also take a close look at what is being proposed and submit whatever concerns or comments they have to the Navy so that they can be heard and taken into consideration."

The deadline for the comment submission has been moved to Aug. 18, after the Department of Defense agreed to give an extension.

The CNMI public is being encouraged to visit www.cnmieis.org if they want more information on the military joint training plan or on how to submit comments.

Initial findings

In its initial report, Dentons again highlighted that the impact statement document "fails to meet even the most basic requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act."

The draft EIS also fails to provide a meaningful and objective evaluation of alternatives to the Navy's proposed project, and fails to identify and analyze the environmental impacts of the project in an accurate, complete fashion.

The Dentons initial report said the draft EIS also "fails to address mitigation that would avoid or minimize the impacts of the project, even where such mitigation is obvious, effective, and financially-feasible."

"In preparing the draft EIS, the Navy failed to promote meaningful public engagement and proceeded without coordination or compliance with other requirements of federal and CNMI law," the initial report further said.

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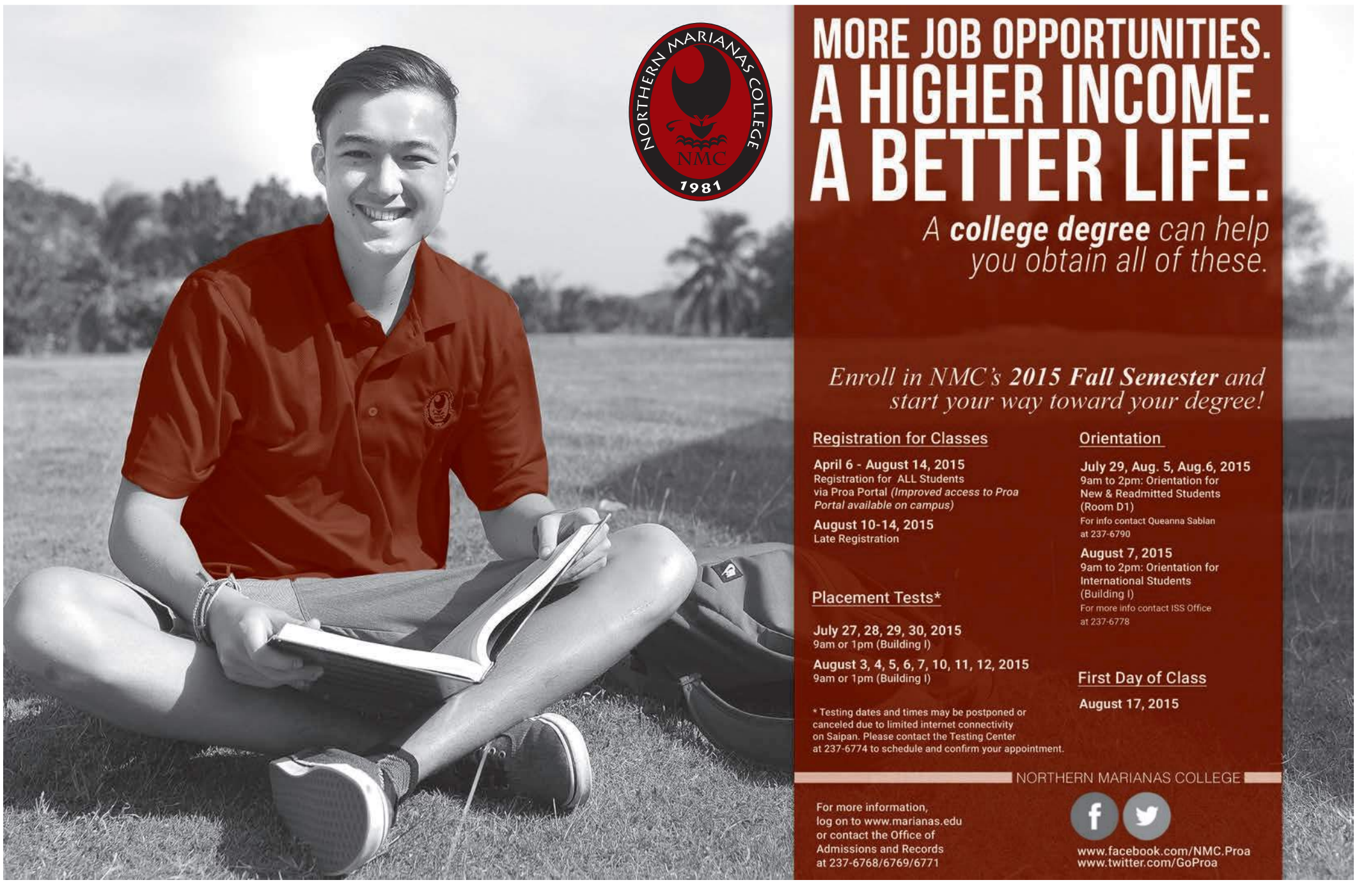
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Jurors now deliberating in marriage fraud case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The 12 federal jurors began deliberating yesterday afternoon in the ongoing trial of Qiong Lu Pua, a woman charged with three others of conspiring in a fraudulent marriage in order for two of them to obtain green cards.

The jurors are going to resume their deliberations today, Friday. The jurors started their deliberations late afternoon yesterday when the U.S. government rested its case after calling Benigno Mettao, its sixth and last witness. The defense did not call any witness.

In the U.S. government's closing arguments, Assistant U.S. Attorney Russell Lorfing said they presented overwhelming evidence to prove beyond reasonable doubt that Pua is guilty of one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States.

In defendant's closing arguments, defense attorney Benjamin Petersburg said the U.S. government's main witnesses—Benigno Mettao and Norma Nekaifes—"are liars, and are not credible and not trustworthy witnesses to convict Pua."

Mettao and Nekaifes are also charged with the same conduct. They both pleaded guilty and testified for the U.S. government during Pua's trial.

Lorfing said the members of the conspiracy are Pua, Mettao, Nekaifes Zhenging Lu, and Baoqin Ding.

In 2005, Pua, a Chinese national, obtained a legal permanent resident status after marrying Juan Pua, a U.S. citizen.

Lorfing said Nekaifes is the long-time girlfriend of Mettao.

Lorfing said defendant Pua is a neighbor of Nekaifes and Mettao.

The prosecutor narrated to the court the evidence and witnesses' accounts how Pua paid Mettao and Nekaifes several hundred dollars in exchange for Mettao and Nekaifes entertaining into fraudulent marriages.

Lorfing said Mettao married Pua's friend, Ding, on Dec. 2, 2010, while on May 16, 2011, Nekaifes married Pua's brother, Lu.

Lorfing said Lu arrived on Saipan on May 11, 2011, but the following day he applied for license at the Mayor's Office to marry Nekaifes.

He said Pua paid Nekaifes $800 on May 12, 2011 and that Nekaifes testified for that.

Lorfing said Pua was a witness at both weddings.

The prosecutor cited how Mettao and Nekaifes subsequently signed immigration status forms and lied to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Lorfing cited the testimony of Mettao that he met with Pua and they went over the questions.

"Why you practiced that when you're telling the truth?" Lorfing asked, referring to some questions to be answered before the USCIS during interview.

Lorfing said the testimonies of their witnesses all point to Pua's guilt of conspiracy to defraud the U.S.

In the defense's arguments, Petersburg said Nekaifes and Mettao are liars and that the jurors witnessed during their testimony that they admitted they lied to immigration and USCIS to get money.

Petersburg said Nekaifes and Mettao lied because they do not want to get in prison.

He said Nekaifes and Mettao are the only source of the accusations against Pua.

The defense lawyer said Nekaifes and Mettao agreed each other to put the blame on Pua.

Petersburg said Nekaifes made an unbelievable story that she wanted money to buy a car and for her mother's treatment for dialysis.

Petersburg said Mettao testified that he agreed to the marriage because he just wanted to get the money from Pua.

"They blamed Mrs. Pua for everything," the lawyer said.

Petersburg asked for evidence of money changing hands, the car, or even a photo of the car that Nekaifes purchased. He asked where are Ding and Lu now.

"Are they on Saipan? Guam? Are they in the moon?" Petersburg said, as he asked the jurors to return a verdict of not guilty.

In his rebuttal, Lorfing said he does not know where are Ding and Lu.

Lorfing chided Petersburg for his remark about the moon, saying this is not a joke because a life is at stake.

Lorfing said he also takes offense that Nekaifes was lying about her mother being sick.

On getting Nekaifes and Mettao to testify, the prosecutor said in order to catch wrongdoers, other wrongdoers must be used.

Lorfing said a legal permanent resident status must be earned and to get it through fraud and deceit is wrong and illegal.

Club C to host UFC 190: Rousey vs Correia

For the first time, Club C will be hosting a live showing of Ultimate Fighting Championship on Sunday, Aug. 2.

The mixed martial arts event, UFC 190, will see the Women's Bantamweight Championship bout between current champion Ronda Rousey and top contender Bethe Correia.

According to Club C director Juan 'Pan' Guerrero, the Sunday showing will be the "first of many" hosting of UFC fights.

"It will be ongoing for the next couple of months," Guerrero said. "We are the only commercial establishment on Saipan that is currently licensed to show live UFC fights."

Rousey, who hails from Riverside, California, will be defending her title for the sixth time since coming to the UFC.

After campaigning for a title shot against Rousey, Correa, who is from Brazil, will now have a chance to take it.

Both women fighters hold undefeated records. The actual fight will be held at the HSBC Arena in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Guerrero said it only makes sense to offer this kind of entertainment as they have the facility and "the biggest screen on Saipan."

The viewing is free of charge but customers are encouraged to take advantage of Club C's six selections of beers that will be offered at $12 a bucket with a free plate of appetizer. It will also come with a free lanyard and a chance to win raffle prizes.

The promotion will start at 11am and will last until 6pm. For inquiries, contact Club C at 234-0088. ***(Frauleine S. Villanueva)***

ERRATUM

In yesterday's story on the tourist sites that were vandalized, the MVA's contracted security service was misidentified in the press release. The correct security service is Island Protection Services.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials, left side, meet with Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. officials yesterday morning at the hospital's conference room to discuss the pilot survey for non-communicable disease, a kick-starter for many surveys within the Pacific Region, along.

JAYSON CAMACHO

PILOT

From Page 1

The pilot survey was supposed to be implemented in August this year but was pushed back another month due to data gathering and more information needed.

"We've come along way and moving it back a month is a good thing," Muña said.

Not only will the pilot survey help determine the prevalence rate of NCDs in the CNMI, but it will also capture better and accurate data among adults.

Becky Robles, administrator of DPH's NCD Bureau, said it will be a baseline survey on where CNMI is health-wise and would help CHCC determine its priorities and what programs are needed.

Robles said the baseline survey is necessary because right now the numbers they have are spotty—only collected when a person visits the hospital or clinics, in school surveys, the CNMI Behavioral Health Survey, and other statistic collection that cannot determine the prevalence rate of NCDs in the community.

CDC public health adviser Stacy DeJesus said the CNMI will be the model for the Pacific region so everyone is interested in the survey.

"We really want to take this pilot survey and try to implement it in other areas of the Pacific because this survey—compared to other surveys such as World Health Organization's STEP survey—so that the CNMI will have preliminary data by December," DeJesus said.

She said it is important to have the baseline study in order to observe changes in future surveys.

The pilot survey will be for adults 18 and over. DeJesus said it will be done via door-to-door. It won't target every house in the village but a percentage of residents.

CHCC Public Health medical director Dr. Dan Lamar said the results would also be helpful in making policies and introduction of legislation.

The survey will take three months or until December, according to Robles, and would include Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. A total of 30 surveyors will going into the field.

DPH director Margaret Aldan said that respondents will be asked a number of questions and their height and weight will be measured.

Questions will pertain to mammograms, Pap tests, colonoscopy, general health questions, smoking, alcohol, betel nut chewing, food consumption, drinks such as sugar-sweetened beverages, physical activity, among others.

Also blood sugar, cholesterol, and pressure checks will be done on the spot. There are more than 100 questions and will take 45 minutes to answer.

A decision has also been made that the baseline survey will no longer be put together with the CNMI Behavioral Health Survey but will work with the Community Guidance Center.

Those who will go into the field to do the survey are now being trained, with funding provided by WHO, CDC, and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. NMC-CREES and CGC are also providing in-kind support.

Today, July 31, every stakeholder will be meeting at 8am to 11am to discuss further details of the baseline survey. This includes CHCC's Community Guidance Center, the Department of Commerce, and NMC-CREES.

MARPI

From Page 1

been given the responsibility to fast-track the public cemetery's opening.

Babauta said that request for proposals would be published in the newspaper next week for those interested in doing ground maintenance for the public cemetery, which includes burial and the making of headstones.

DLNR, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Division of Public Health's Bureau of Environmental Health, and other government agencies are working with Babauta on the opening of the Marpi Cemetery.

It is a non-denominational public cemetery and has 2,500 double-stack occupancy crypts for a total of 5,000 burials. The cemetery is said to have the potential to provide over 50,000 crypts for 33 years.

The $2.9-million Marpi Cemetery was made possible by funding from the U.S. Department of the Interior through a Capital Improvement Project grant in early 2011.

MARINA

From Page 1

DLRN owns the infrastructure. Seman told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the other gangways may be "condemned."

"I might have to shut it down and tourists might be displaced," he said.

Saipan Tribune was at the cove yesterday and observed the first gangway approaching the cove collapsed and in the water. There are four gangways at the cove.

DLRN staff yesterday morning barricaded its entrance from tourist boats and cut off entrance from land with caution tape.

Seman was shocked that human traffic alone caused the collapse so he called the Department of Public Works yesterday for an assessment and survey.

"Their initial findings were not good. [The gangway] was poorly engineered or built," he said.

Seman said it was discovered that both beams beneath the gangway lacked rebar.

"It just dropped," he said.

"The initial assessment by Public Works has them stating that the beam on the gangway where it broke off has no rebar. They will be looking into the building permit for this and see whether the design or engineering was done right but the construction may have been done wrong."

Seman said DPW's Technical Service Division, which is headed by Tony Camacho, would make the determination.

"Because the rest were designed the same way, I might be forced to shut down the rest of the gangway and put in immediate repair," Seman said.

"Based on their survey this morning, all of them were damaged," he said. The rebar is not where "it's supposed to be."

Seman said the cove infrastructure was built by the late Tony Pellegrino who subcontracted Tano Group. He said the gangways were prefabricated.

No glitches in casino operations so far, regulators say

BY JOEL PINAROC
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REPORTER

There were no reports of glitches or problems as Saipan's first casino enters its fifth day of operations on the island. Regulators are keeping watch over the casino, and no untoward incidents have been reported so far.

Commonwealth Casino Commission chair Juan Sablan said everything is going smoothly and that the handful of "open" gaming tables continues to cater to players who are mostly Chinese.

"The players are mostly Chinese. There are a few locals, but I would say about more than 90 percent of the players are Chinese," he said.

On Wednesday night, about nine tables were opened to the public.

Commissioner Justin Manglona added that as a security precaution, some of the doors of the casino floor at the T Galleria will be closed at 10pm. The "temporary" casino, established by exclusive license holder Best Sunshine International Limited, has four main entrances.

Casino operations however, have been "adjusted" up to 2am, from the original midnight closing.

Sablan said the adjustment was made to accommodate the players' request.

The commission last week granted authorization to BSI to open the casino from 12pm to midnight from Sunday to Thursday. By Friday until Saturday, it will be open until 2am.

By Monday next week, operations will be 24 hours.

More manpower

Sablan said the commission will soon have more manpower for the casino.

Currently, the commissioners themselves are working to keep watch over the casino.

"We are still continuing the hiring process, and very soon, we will have more staff for the casino," Sablan said, adding that the regulators' office inside the casino is now up and running.

In the last few weeks, the casino commission posted job openings for 25 full-time staff in 17 different positions.

An advertisement from the commission indicated 12 administrative positions, nine positions for enforcement, and four audit and compliance positions.

More games

The temporary casino has 45 gaming tables and 106 slot machines.

The nine tables have been opened as part of the casino's "soft opening." A full-fledged opening has been set for early August.

By this time, the more than a hundred slot machines are also expected to be up and running. The machines have been installed, but still need to be certified before the public can use them to play.

Sablan said Australian firm GLI has started the testing and certifications of the machines. He said some of the certifications will be completed by Friday.

Ex-convict found using 'ice,' pot again

Justin A. Funkugub, an ex-convict who was slapped in 2012 with a 24-month prison term and placed on supervised release after being convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm, was allegedly found using illegal drugs again and other violations.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona summoned Funkugub to appear in court and explain why his supervised release should not be revoked.

Funkugub's supervised release term began on May 16, 2015, and will expire on Feb. 15, 2018.

Manglona issued the summons after the U.S. Probation Office made the request.

U.S. probation officer Gregory F. Arriola stated in a petition that Funkugub was found using methamphetamine or "ice" last June 17 and using marijuana last June 11.

Funkugub also failed to appear for random drug testing four times and failed to participate in substance abuse counseling sessions six times, Arriola said.

When confronted about the drug test results, Funkugub allegedly admitted using marijuana and "ice."

Last Feb. 17, Manglona revoked Funkugub's supervised release for admitting to drug use on multiple occasions and his failure to report for drug testing and counseling sessions. He was ordered to serve three months in prison, followed by a 33-month term of supervised release. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Apatang urges passage of bill to fund Kagman road paving

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang is urging lawmakers to pass a local bill that provides $465,000 for improvement projects that include road paving for Kagman.

House Local Bill 19-29, authored by Rep. Francisco S. Taimano (Ind-Saipan), seeks to appropriate $465,000 from poker fees for the construction of a Kagman baseball field and paving and drainage of Tangantangan Road and Lalangita Road in Kagman.

"[What's] important in this undertaking is protecting the lives and property of our residents. The intent of this bill will accomplish the government's responsibility of making sure lives and property are safeguarded from harm, damage, or loss," Apatang said.

The Saipan Mayor's Office is responsible for maintaining, improving, and repairing secondary roads and that includes those in Kagman.

"Paving coral surfaced roads is cost-saving in the long term," Apatang said. "No matter how frequent we resurface secondary roads with fresh, crushed limestone material, we always have to expend more funds to perform the same job time and again. Redoing the same road two or three times a year is costly and a waste of public funds."

He said this is a goal that "we all should be going after and accomplishing whenever funds are available for such purposes" and that this answers the countless pleas from residents for road improvements.

"We have seen it firsthand, the unsafe condition of roads in the area. …The planned road improvements, once completed, will result in less vehicle repair expenses for residents and access for emergency responders to get to and from easier and safer," he said.

In related news, Chopak Drive in Kagman III has been paved already and residents have been utilizing the road. However, Pine Drive has yet to be paved.

Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said they are still waiting on a change order from the Department of Public Works.

"We're waiting for change order from DPW and Procurement and if that goes through and it is approved we will continue with the paving," Deleon Guerrero said.

The change order is for a total of $58,000 to pave a portion of Pine Drive that connects to Chopak Drive and intersects with Forbidden Island Road, including a portion of Pine Drive, near Tank Beach leading into Pepega Street.

This links all the roads together, according to Deleon Guerrero. After that, two other road improvements will take place.

"I followed up on Monday [July 27] and it [change order] was at Department of Finance. The change order was turned in last week," he said.

He said more funding is being sought and that funding should focus on roads, especially the drainage needed at Chopak.

"There is an estimate for drainage totaling $106,000 and I submitted the estimates to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation," he said.

Power outage Saturday morning

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will conduct a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, Aug. 1, to replace primary power pole accessories in the villages of Chalan Kiya, San Jose, and Oleai.

At 6:30am, CUC will temporarily interrupt power service along portions of Chalan Monsignor Guerrero and Beach Road in Chalan Kiya, San Jose, and Oleai to allow CUC Power personnel safe access to the primary lines during the replacement process.

Linemen will replace deteriorated machine bolts and pole top pins on 20 primary power poles from the Chalan Kiya Mobil Station on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero to the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium on Beach Rd. CUC Power personnel will also replace a rotted three-phase primary power pole on Beach Road in front of the Borja Funeral Home.

The temporary service interruption is expected to take up to five hours to complete, at which time power will be restored to the area.

For more information, visit www.cucgov.org or contact the CUC Call Center at 664-4CUC (664-4282). ***(CUC)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Advanced happy birthday greetings go out to Rosa "Auntie Chailang" Palacios, who will be celebrating her special day on Aug. 1! God bless you! With love, from your Iyang-Angandodos.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to the winner of a trip for 4 to San Francisco, Los Angeles or San Diego!
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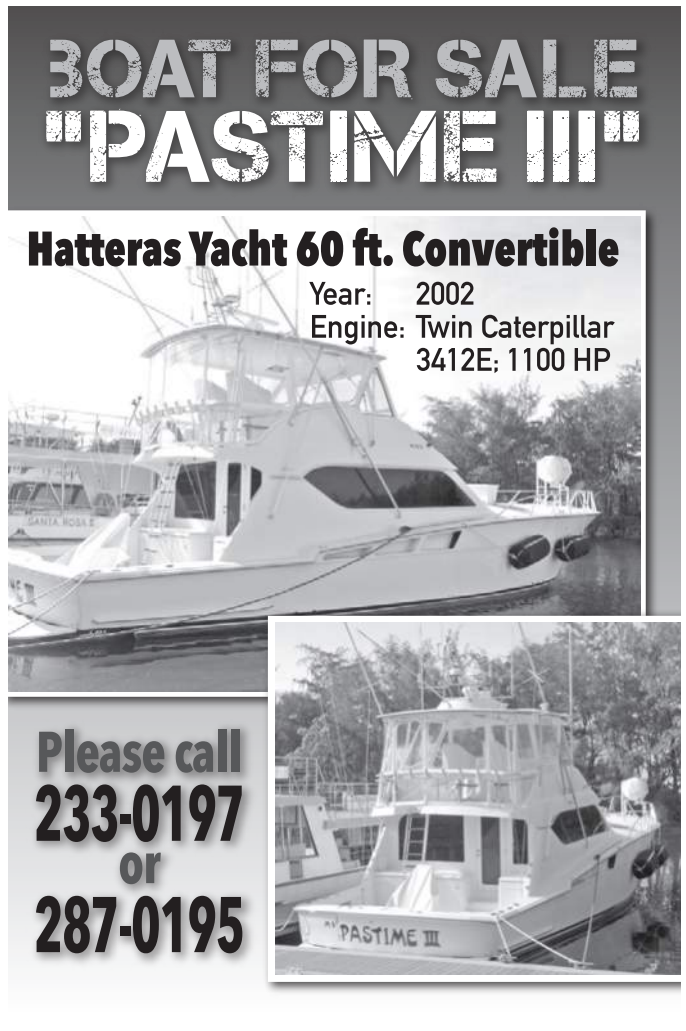

CDA aims to meet with CUC over debt suspension request

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority board authorized their executive director on Wednesday to set up a meeting with leaders of the CNMI's public utility over their request to suspend debt obligation payments to CDA.

The CDA board voted unanimously, aiming for a meeting on the week of Aug. 13. They want to meet with CUC management, board, and counsel to see where the utility agency stands financially.

In June, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. asked CDA to suspend "all payments, accrual of dividends, and any associated liability" for debt payments owed to CDA for a period of five years.

But just two months before—in April—the CUC board voted to pursue a renewal of a 2.1-cent per kilowatt-hour surcharge for its CDA debt obligations.

CUC owes some $4.32 million in deferred debt by October 2016. They have deferred payments since 2010. In total, CUC has to pay $1.08 million to CDA per year, after paying this debt.

This quick change of position on the debt obligation has drawn concerns from CDA.

"When they came to us recently there was a solution that they proposed," said CDA executive director Manuel Sablan in an interview after the board meeting on Wednesday.

"And I thought there was really no need to amend [the stock agreement] because the proposed arrangement would bring them up to date on their arrears. But something happened. That did not materialize. So they came back and now are asking the board to provide them some kind of suspension of the dividend payment" plus accruals, he said.

Sablan said that CDA has "a fiduciary responsibility to collect, to receive those" payments. "This is not a debt, this is a preferred stock. This is an equity position."

"This is an active obligation. Are they suggesting that we are going to be writing these things off?" Sablan went on to say.

He explained that CUC owed CDA in excess of $100 million in principal debt and accrued interest, but that CUC and CDA agreed to let CDA take an equity position in CUC by converting the obligations into a preferred stock to the tune of $35 million for potential offset of $16 some million if CUC could demonstrate they could spend their own internally generated money to finance capital improvement projects in a "revolving fund."

"Because CDA is obligated to make sure this money is revolving, the payment for this so-called dividend payment…is not CDA's revenue," Sablan said. "It will be available to finance other [capital improvements]. It is a revolving fund to finance other CIP related projects involving income-producing government agencies like" the local ports authority and public utility.

Sablan said when CUC and CDA agreed to convert the millions owed to an equity position, it improved the balance almost overnight.

"It moved that liability to the equity side of the balances. My thinking is by doing that they should be able to move now further and [have] them able to leverage their resources, because now they are not saddled with a hundred million-dollar loan. They are saddled now with an equity stakeholder. All the equity stakeholder is asking is to pay an agreed upon dividend on equity in the form of a preferred stock."

CUC's debt stretches decades back to 1985, when CDA loaned CUC $200 million from a federal grant pledge agreement they received so CUC could build its infrastructure. CUC hasn't paid much back. A legal battle in 2001 over the money was resolved in a memorandum of agreement the next year, which was revised in 2004 to turn that debt into equity for CDA. In 2009, the agreement was executed, effectively turning that total debt of about $200 million and the total interest debt of $138,672 into equity, or $45 million in preferred stock held by CDA. CUC's dividend payment was set at 2 percent, or $900,000 a year of that amount. The deferred payment of three years is amortized over 15 years, for $180,000 a year.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Tourist sites vandalized

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for a burglary, theft and graffiti incidents that occurred at Banzai cliff and Grotto in Marpi.

On Friday, July 24, 2015, at about 11:50am, police responded to Banzai Cliff and met with security. According to the male security guard, at about 9am that morning he discovered three metal plaques from the monuments and one ornament bowl for incense had gone missing. The same security guard was assigned at the Banzai Cliff lookout the day before and confirmed the stolen items were still there when he got off work Thursday, July 23, 2015, at about 5pm.

Police learned that graffiti was spray painted onto the Grotto pavilion and water tank. The graffiti included the letter "A" and the number "6" on it.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net. Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

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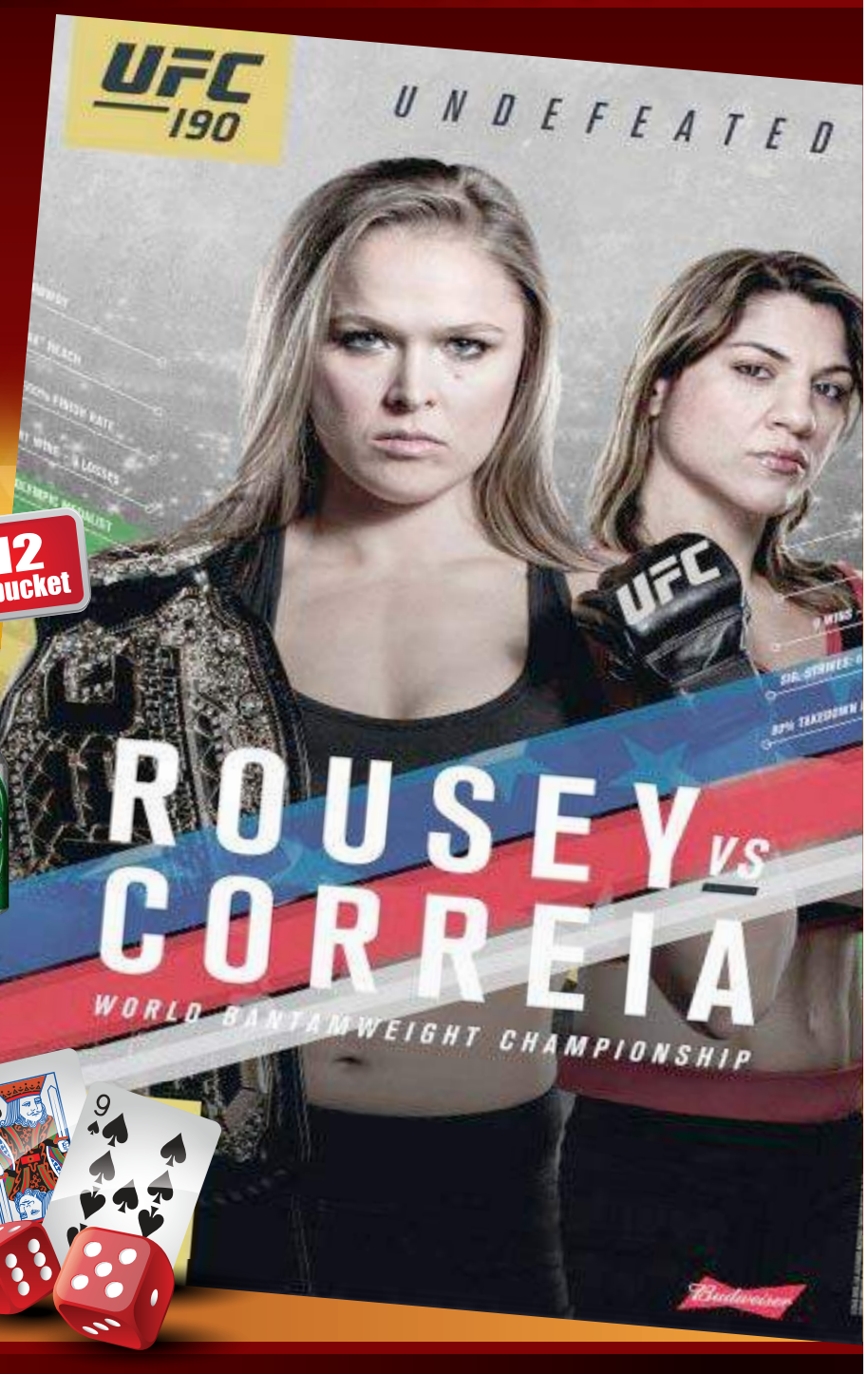

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20th Tournament of Champions this weekend

With over hundreds of thousands of dollars in prizes at stake, this weekend's Tournament of Champions promises to be the most exciting one yet in its 20-year history.

"Celebrating 20 years is an exciting milestone," said Ben Babauta, tournament director. "And we are extremely thankful for all the contributions made by companies and individuals to make this year's tournament extra special."

The 20th Annual Tournament of Champions will be played at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort's east and west courses on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 1 and 2. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $200.

First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior and Super Senior Flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 for second, $300 for third, a digital camera for fourth, and $100 DFS gift certificate for fifth place. The Ladies Low Gross champion will receive $500, $400 for second, and $300 for third place. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will receive a trophy.

Hole-in-one prizes include brand new vehicles donated by Atkins Kroll Toyota, Joeten Motors, Triple J Motors, and Club C. Pacifica Insurance and Club C are also sponsoring cash prizes as hole-in-one prizes, while Saipan Laolao Golf & Resort is offering one year of free golf as another hole-in-one prize. Delta Air Lines and Asiana Airlines are also offering airline tickets as hole-in-one prizes.

The tournament will also be featuring a $1,000 cash prize for closest to pin competition with a 25-year-old bottle of Chivas Regal.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the Tournament of Champions planning committee, including tournament director Ben Babauta, far right, pose for a group photo. From left, Boyet Centeno, Raynard Travilla, Jack Salas, Ray Camacho, Elna Tighe, Hillary Agulto, Marida Pensader, Amanda Sablan, Jeff Taylor, Marie Sablan, and Babauta.

Since its inception, the TOC has given over $700,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has gone directly to improvements like the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort Saipan, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and most recently the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

Platinum sponsors include T Galleria, Club C, Saipan Laolao Bay Golf and Resort, Marianas Visitors Bureau, Delta Air Lines, Titan Imports, and Best Sunshine Inc. Gold sponsors include IT&E, Tan Holdings, Saipan Computer Services, Triple J Motors, Joeten Motors, Nike Golf, Atkins Kroll, Asiana Airlines, Docomo Pacific, Miller and Pepsi, and Pacifica Insurance. The tournament is also supported by numerous other sponsors.

For more information, contact Babauta at 483-2563 or Hillary Agulto at 236-2571. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com. ***(TOC)***

CDA approves modifications to Ocean Vista's QC

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority board has denied Ocean Vista Resort's request for excise tax relief but approved other modifications to the resort's qualifying certificate.

In their original qualifying certificate application, the resort proposed a tax relief on excise tax during the resort's construction and operation period, said CDA executive director Manuel Sablan.

This time around they asked for excise tax relief during the construction period.

The board again rejected this.

"One of the reasons for that is to encourage them basically to the maximum extent possible [to] procure goods from local vendors," Sablan explained.

The amendments to the QC are as follows:

n The board voted to amend the QC to include a 100 percent abatement of the Developer Infrastructure Tax.

n CDA voted to cap this tax benefit at $771,000. This tax benefit is in addition to or on top of the existing $3.4 million benefit cap on the business gross revenue and bar taxes. Ocean Vista would be responsibly for any tax liability above the cap.

n CDA said the resort must meet all requirements of the Building Safety Office, including submission of plans, cost estimates, report on final project costs, payment of applicable fees, among others.

n CDA said the resort must submit to CDA the final amount of the developer infrastructure tax to be certified by the Building Safety Office.

All other QC requirements remain.

The CDA voted to memorialize their vote in a resolution for Gov. Eloy S. Inos' approval.

In April, the CDA board approved Ocean Vista Resort's qualifying certificate with a requirement that it doles out $150,000 in public contributions every year.

One requirement is a "cultural historical preservation aspect" to be included in their project. A second stipulation would be an annual $150,00 public contribution to be directed to CDA for the agency's sole intent to provide more services to the Commonwealth. A third stipulation would be 50 percent abatement of the business gross revenue tax and bar tax, with a benefit cap not to exceed $3.4 million or 10 years regardless of the year of bid,

Ocean Vista Resort proposes to build a reported $46-million, 144-room hotel on Capital Hill.

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Senate Resolution No. 18-40

Introduced by:

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Sen. Ralph DLG. Torres
Sen. Jovita M. Taimanao
Sen. Victor B. Hocog
Sen. Paul A. Manglona
Sen. Francisco M. Borja
Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz
Sen. Joaquin H. Borja

THE SENATE
EIGHTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

A SENATE RESOLUTION

To recognize and commend Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd. dba Marianas Resort and Spa (Kan Pacific) for its more than 35 years of unwavering loyalty and commitment, and outstanding economic and community contributions to the government and people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

WHEREAS, Kan Pacific continues to demonstrate its commitment and partnership with the people of the Commonwealth by investing and expanding its operations despite the fact that its lease agreement is expiring in a few years; and

WHEREAS, Kan Pacific continues to be a top notch resort and spa by consistently improving its facilities and providing a superior level of customer service even during tough economic times; and

WHEREAS, Kan Pacific was incorporated in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), in July of 1975 and the Corporation's main purpose was to conduct the business of a golf course, engage in the business of hotel operations and to engage in other activities designed to promote sports, leisure or recreation; and

WHEREAS, on December 15, 1977, a lease was executed between Kan Pacific and the Government of the CNMI for approximately one hundred forty six (146) hectares of property in the Marpi area; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, the Kitami Family secured majority shares of Kan Pacific and has since devoted their hard work and money to the development of tourism in the CNMI; and

WHEREAS, since their arrival on Saipan, the Kitami family has made it their home and has since invested even before it became a popular tourist destination and in doing so opened its first nine holes (of the 18 hole golf course) in February of 1980; and

WHEREAS, also in the 1980's, Kan Pacific built 50 cottages, and two baseball fields and an Olympic size pool for the benefit and use of the community; and

WHEREAS, with its moderate hotel facility and the opening of the first golf course, Kan Pacific opened up Saipan as a major tourist destination especially amongst tourists from Japan; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, the first professional golf tournament in Saipan took place at Kan Pacific when an invitational tournament of professional golfers from Japan came to showcase their skills. The golfing activities at Kan Pacific greatly assisted major hotels in attracting tourists to Saipan; and

WHEREAS, when Japan's financial bubble burst, the Kitami family countered the situation by constructing the Reefside Hotel in 1996 and the opening of another tourism attraction -the Go-Kart Race Track; and

WHEREAS, despite the additional economic and tourism woes in the 2000's, the Kitami family pushed forward with the construction of the CNMI's first spa facility in 2001 and in 2004, the Mandi Asian Spa facility was further renovated and extended; and

WHEREAS, Kan Pacific fully renovated the original 50 cottages into Bali style villas in 2007 and added a driving range to its facilities in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Kan Pacific's commitment and loyalty to the CNMI is further evidenced by its newest undertaking -Mariana Ocean, which provides visitors and locals with island made body products; and

WHEREAS, for more than 35 years and despite the challenging economic hardships, the Kitami family and Kan Pacific have proven their dedication and loyalty to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

WHEREAS, today Kan Pacific has a first class facility -the 18-hole course, the 50 Bali style cottages, the acclaimed spa and dining facilities, the 74-room low-rise set of suites (originally 80 rooms but twelve were combined into 120 square meter Family Suites and Executive Suites), the racing circuits for go-carts, the mini-golf course, the driving range next to the Resort and most recently in February 2014, the opening of Mariana Ocean, offering body products produced on Saipan and products produced exclusively for Mariana Ocean using the scents of the Islands; and

WHEREAS, Kan Pacific currently employs directly 150 people with an over 55% being Local, FSM and US hires which is way above the required Department of Labor 30% that has proven that Kan Pacific is dedicated to hiring and training local people; and

WHEREAS, Kan Pacific is a supporter of our local trade school and have hired many of their students to help give them "on the job training" in an effort to reach their workforce goal of at least 60% being Local and US hires by the beginning of 2015; and

WHEREAS, Kan Pacific understands the value and significance of marketing strategies to entice tourists to visit the CNMI, thus they are constantly re-evaluating their strategies in order to help the CNMI grow as a premier tourist destination and especially as a golf destination; and

WHEREAS, Kan Pacific is compassionate and understands the local culture and traditions. It has always supported community events, contributed and has donated thousands of dollars to youth and community activities such as the Santa Remedio Parish, San Roque Parish, Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc., Patron Saint Celebrations (Fiesta's), purchasing school supplies for public schools, the Public School System, the Marianas March Against Cancer, countless voluntary involvements to beautify and clean public areas in the North side, including numerous other projects and activities and most recently paid off the remaining balance owed for the building of the Tanapag Cemetery Chapel, which cost about $4,000.00 in addition to the cleaning of the cemetery's surrounding vicinity; and

WHEREAS, the Kan Pacific facilities are readily available for the community to utilize; currently the two baseball fields are utilized by community members; the 50-meter pool is also used by our local swim teams and for swimming competitions; and

WHEREAS, both facilities require thousands of dollars every month for water and power, chemicals to clean the pool, maintenance staff to clean the area and daily lifeguards to ensure safety of the swimmers, yet Kan Pacific continues to let members of our communities have access to them; and

WHEREAS, several companies have opened and closed their doors in the past while Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd. has maintained business since it first opened; and

WHEREAS, Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd. is a shining example for all investors as they are current with all their lease payments, BGRT's, bar tax, and hotel occupancy tax payments and is well known for its humanitarian assistance during times of adversity; and

WHEREAS, Kan Pacific has invested and provided more than 35 years of exceptional hotel hospitality and tourism services for our visitors and people in the CNMI, and Kan Pacific is committed to future investments on the island of Saipan which they call home;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature that the Senate recognizes and commends Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd. dba Marianas Resort and Spa (Kan Pacific) for its more than 35 years of unwavering loyalty and commitment, and outstanding economic and community contributions to the government and people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Senate shall certify and the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this Resolution and thereafter the Senate Clerk shall transmit certified copies to Mr. Yoshihiro Kitami, President, Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd.; Ms. Gloria Cavanagh, General Manager, Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd. ; the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, CNMI Delegate to the 113th United States Congress; the Honorable Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Speaker of the House, 18th Commonwealth Legislature; and the Honorable Marian Tudela, Mayor of Saipan.

ADOPTED BY THE SENATE ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2014.

CERTIFIED BY:

RALPH DLG. TORRES
President of the Senate

ATTESTED BY:

JOVITA M. TAIMANAO
Senate Legislative Secretary

Thank you to the Senate of the 18th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature for their support of Kan Pacifc Saipan and the Kitami family and for their belief in CERTAINTY.

KPS is a Certainty ... It's not a plan, It is a Reality at work, Today!

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Encryption: Government's latest enemy

When the arrival of cheap mobile phones threatened to help criminals conceal their activities from the cops, Congress enacted a law in 1994 requiring that all phone lines be capable of being wiretapped. Now, with communications moving to the Internet, the increasing use of encryption on smartphones and computers has law enforcement and security agencies warning again about bad guys "going dark"—this time, by transforming their messages and files into unbreakable code. Their warnings about hidden terrorist cabals and criminal gangs have grown more intense as companies such as Apple and Google have made encryption a standard feature of the smartphones, tablets and laptops that run their operating systems, enabling everyday users to scramble their records and chats in a way that even the companies can't unscramble. The government wants the companies to make sure encrypted content can be unlocked in response to a court order. But designing encryption systems with spare keys for the government would create more problems than it would solve.

Last year, Apple announced that it was enabling users to encrypt almost everything on their Apple devices in a way that the company couldn't decrypt, and Google said it would take a similar approach to devices powered by its latest Android operating system. Those announcements landed like a thunderclap at FBI headquarters, given that Apple or Google's software is found in most of the smartphones and many of the tablet computers worldwide.

To FBI Director James B. Comey, the risk is that encryption will become a standard feature in every device and online app, preventing investigators from identifying and stopping terrorists, child predators, violent criminals and others whom they've been able to track through unencrypted communications. The safeguards the courts provide against illegal searches are protection enough for the public, Comey maintains; device manufacturers should either stop building encryption into their products or use systems that can be unlocked by investigators armed with a court order.

But if Edward Snowden's revelations have taught the public anything, it's that the courts haven't stopped the U.S. government from stretching the boundaries of permissible surveillance beyond all recognition. Those disclosures have helped drive the public's interest in encryption, which in turn has led the likes of Apple and Google to build it into their products.

Much earlier in the Internet era, the Clinton administration tried to persuade Congress and technology companies to embrace a microchip that encrypted phone calls but created duplicate keys for law enforcement. The idea was abandoned after numerous engineers and civil liberties groups panned it, saying the "Clipper chip" would only make information costlier and less secure. The threats to the country have changed, but the government's surveillance and investigative capabilities have increased exponentially too. Injecting new vulnerabilities into encryption programs is a no better or more necessary step now than it was 20 years ago.

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JUST THINK. IF YOU WORK HARD ENOUGH, MAYBE ONE DAY YOU CAN BECOME A CHEERLEADER IN THE NFL...
I WAS THINKING A COACH.
KOTERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

Pardon, commute, and reprieve

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

An older Carolinian who calls Ben Fitial "my brother" says, "Brother Ben forgot he was Carolinian." A recognized leader among his ethnic group, former governor Fitial pleaded guilty to misconduct in public office and conspiracy to commit theft of service. He was sentenced to a year of incarceration by the Superior Court of the CNMI on June 25, with sentence to commence on or before July 6.

Gov. Inos commuted the sentence so Fitial will not have to serve time at all.

The three options mentioned by Gov. Inos (as stated in our title) gives the impression that it is the only ones he was constitutionally allowed to do something about, akin to the U. S. military's characterization of the EIS as providing only three alternatives. As was previously pointed out in the EIS, doing nothing, not converting Pagan and Tinian into live-fire training grounds IS an option. The governor was equally in a position not to do anything in response to Fitial's application letter for pardon, which we now understand, was made before the sentencing, with Gov. Inos asking the Board of Parole for their suggestion two days before the sentencing itself. The broth was boiled ahead of the feast on this one!

The request letter obviously put the governor between the proverbial rock and the hard place, vowing to make a decision before leaving for vacation to the Chamorro stomping ground in the Pacific northeast (in case one missed the allusion on the geo-social grid of the Orient, the West Coast of the United States has become the East Coast of the Pacific Ocean, from the Asian perspective, and the demographics).

The Board of Parole, convened at the request of the governor, recommended a commutation of sentence but not pardon. In common sense meanings, pardon is a forgiveness of an offense and has no significant consequence, or that the perpetrator is no longer subject to accountability. Commute is to reduce a sentence to make it less severe, in this case no severity at all save as what is publicly known to be the medical malady of our ex-governor. Reprieve cancels or postpones a sentenced punishment.

We write under a parent company that regarded Ben Fitial as a member of the family. We recognize, nonetheless, the larger mandate to serve the interest of the general public, and to the latter, we draw ourselves within the line.

Commute clearly recognizes that an offense was made. Spiriting a masseuse in the shadows of night from a correctional facility to knead Fitial's aching back is hardly kosher, let alone politically appropriate. The deliberate blocking of a service to deliver an order of the court is a crime more than just the political arrogance of power that it was. Not a few in our editorial staff remember the Marcoses' misuse of executive powers in the Philippines, and, perhaps Fitial thought he could get away with the practice as well.

Knowing of Ben Fitial's physiology, no one denies him the medical attention he requires at a critical time of his prime. A commute reduces the severity of his sentence; in this case, it get Fitial off the hook out of confinement save as his medical condition needs, and still carry the weight of a sentence that affirms, "no one is to be considered above the law."

Gov. Inos' commutation, heeding the advice of the Board of Parole, keeps all views in place; letting Fitial off incarceration without invoking "forgiveness," which recently found media's use when expressed by victims' families of Dylann Roof's Charleston massacre that relieves all the residue of guilt. As the saying goes, "It is easy to forgive, less to forget." Fitial, of course, does not compare to Charleston.

In terms of severity, the Charleston massacre reflects the deep malady that abides around the world. The best-selling cosmetic in Sinosphere is the whitening cream! Susan Smith writes of the strategy to use Obama's church pastor against his possible election (a black man in the WH) by turning Pastor Wright into a racist. The strategy backfired and Obama got elected.

Still, my Carolinian friend may be right but with our caveat: *au contraire*, Ben Fitial acted as an unrestrained *matua*. Carolinians historically had women tend to the home and the land (thus the matrilineal local command and line of real estate ownership) while men navigated the free open seas, gaining alertness and stoic ennui in chewing betel nut. Fitial was, true to form, not seeing anything wrong with his judgments of leadership prerogatives in his political affairs, albeit doing so in a climate that saw such behavior to be legally criminal.

The affair is beyond forgetting. The legal wrangling ceases but the regurgitation of sour grapes won't abate. Tina Sablan testified toward a balanced sense that a crime was committed, reminding us that the consequences of Fitial's action are not to be casually dismissed. Agreed.

I also go with the wisdom after the typhoon: it is done. Assess the damage, rebuild, and move on.

Blue moons, and all that

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

July was a rotten month, with both atmosphere and ocean conspiring to make things tough on the Commonwealth. The bad luck radiated to distant areas, too, and just when I thought I'd get out the month unscathed I wound up stranded in the desert when my pickup truck broke down. As I nervously eyeball the calendar, I note that this accursed month is still not safely gone. I guess we're going to have to scrape it off the bottom of our shoe.

And even then, July will get the last laugh, since this it's one of those "blue moon" months (as in "once in a blue moon") that has two full moons falling within it. So the moon itself will be mocking us when August finally breaks the siege. Well, since Earth has skunked us, I'm going to heed that blue moon and ponder what the heavens have to offer.

And, on this note, July wasn't so bad.

Given Saipan's data and communications woes, you can be forgiven for missing a big news event, namely a space mission that coughed up all sorts of juicy information about the mysterious planet Pluto.

The solar system is a mighty weird place to begin with, but Pluto is positively Gonzo. It's the outlier of the bunch, standing, on average, about 40 times as far from the sun as Earth does, and its orbit falls outside of the plane in which all the other planets are working and playing together. Speaking of orbit, it takes Pluto 248 Earth years to orbit the sun.

Even Pluto's status as a "planet" has fallen into contention, or even disrepute. It's often called a "dwarf planet" these days. You can call it whatever you want; it won't bother me any. Planet, for me, is just easier to say, so I'll consider it in the broad term of a planet-like object and we'll leave it at that.

Anyway, whatever you call it, NASA just got a solid look-see at it via the New Horizons space probe, which, in mid-July, started sending back photos of Pluto's surface. I caught snippets of various radio interviews with scientists, who were excited that the mountains and other features of Pluto appeared to show evidence that Pluto is geologically active.

The photos are cool, so, when Saipan's fiber-optic cable is repaired and full Internet service is restored, you've got something interesting to look up.

Although Pluto is, under the right conditions, said to be visible through a decent-sized amateur telescope, I'll confess that I've never bothered to hunt for it.

About a week after the Pluto photos started to hit the scene, NASA had more big news to unveil: The Kepler space telescope has discovered what may be a very Earth-like planet out there, and by "out there" I mean outside of our solar system. These planets are called exoplanets. This particular exoplanet is called Kepler 352-b, and the star it orbits is called Kepler 352.

Unlike Pluto, Kepler 352-b isn't something we'll ever get up-close photos of. It's 1,400 light-years away, meaning over eight-thousand-trillion miles. Remember the New Horizons space probe, the one that just photographed Pluto? It took a bit over nine years to make that trip. But it would take 26 million years to make it the distance to Kepler 352-b.

Here's the current tally for exoplanets: There are 1,879 confirmed and 4,696 "Kepler candidates." The last time I heard an astronomer talking about it, he said that the ratio of planets to stars seems roughly in the neighborhood of 2:1 or 1:1. So there are probably a whole lot of planets out there.

As for our situation, well, our solar system is based on a fairly typical star that lives within a fairly typical galaxy. And to add to the mundane context, our sun is middle-aged and it lives in the suburbs, neatly between the edge and the middle of our galaxy.

So: Is life is, or is life ain't, something unique to Earth? Well, that's your call. I'll stay out of it.

While I'm staying out of that, I'm hoping to get out of July without any more minor disasters. Sure, there are only a few hours left to count down, but I'm not taking anything for granted.

Building stronger governance

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Corruption is a term spouted off by ordinary citizens venting frustration over heavily rumored suspicion of wrongdoing in government. Indeed, rumors are rumors. There's, however, the saying, "Where there's smoke there's fire…" and that smoke must be followed to the source before it turns into a towering inferno.

On the flip side, corruption has also been used cleverly by the savvy few as a political tool to tweak election results in their favor. This we've seen in the last gubernatorial election.

Unfortunately, we help them with election into office. Almost instantly we ignore the basic essentials or our moral obligation to hold these people accountable by ousting them from office. We complain loudly as though we never had any part of the mess at hand. We were a part of it, weren't we, what with our very short attention span, right?

This is a drawback in a weak democratic state pitched by the very people who are supposed to be making a difference. We do so as though suffering from massive dementia or take refuge in obscurity to avoid exercising real citizens' role. This attitude has got to change! It begins with the self. It's the only path to strengthening our aspired government of laws!

Corruption from ground up: I've seen how politicians (current and former) have used this convenient tool to build upon a foundation of corruption from the ground up. I saw it hatched in 1979. Big shady business bribed legislators for a certain legislation like it's Christmas in June.

Do we partake in it in perpetuity or do we replace it with a sense of commitment and conviction with politically correct measures? What could we attribute to the metastasizing machinery of corruption that has gained strength here? There are several of them; some familiar others a bit too distant.

Remember the five to six legislators who took free trips Hong Kong and Macau last year to work on the casino legislation? Didn't they violate ethics law for taking freebies paid for by people who wanted casino legislation approved? Is the OPA on their case or has it waved it off?

We need solid answers from OPA counsel George Hasselback soonest. To ignore it is to contribute to the weakening of the democratic state of our "government of laws." That impeached and convicted former governor Benigno R. Fitial squeaked from serving his sentence via politically convenient commutation isn't a reason to let our guards down!

Investments: The development of private industries via lasting investments is one of the ways to neutralize the growth of political corruption. That the CNMI remains the largest employer is itself a vehicle to roll corruption in perpetuity. This has got to change.

Unless the CNMI lures more lasting investments we'd make it to the Guinness Book of World Records as a people who know government from A-Z, NOT! What a vehicle to consistently corrupt the multitude. It seems a reflection why the economy hasn't moved forward under the Republican charge for all the promises made in recent past.

We've heard towering promises including "better times" turned woefully "beastly" to "solutions-driven…" an epic folly drowning in the shark-infested sea of bankruptcy. Nothing has moved forward in stride to improve the lot of families throughout the villages on all inhabited islands. Do we sleepwalk it in grand *mañana* once more? Stand up, for together we could instill brighter tomorrows for our hardworking folks and most importantly, posterity.

Do it right! For all that may have gone wrong in paradise I humbly ask: What have we done right? There's the impeachment and conviction of a corrupt former governor. Though his sentence was commuted, it's more statutory, political camaraderie and lawlessness than anything else. I also look forward to more public officials securing their ouster via the rule of law. Unless we clean house forthwith, ours would replicate the once infamous Puerto Rico Dump.

Trouble ahead: Lasting investment is an issue that feels like a terribly bad hangover. We see the descent of large investment projects. Yet we're troubled by their need for thousands of foreign workers that ends on 2019. It's an issue that warrants realistic discussion with U.S. immigration.

Perhaps the imposition has its upside: it grants the CNMI the opportunity to reset its development buttons to determine how much development must we have in tourism and related sectors. Tourism is fine on its face. But it shows a different picture when you dig deeper.

We had to endure economic paralysis when IT&E's underwater cable went completely down. Add to that the poor airline services out of Guam. It turns life in paradise into a complete hellish hole. With a deepening fiscal mess, is there hope ahead for these isles? You be the judge and share your views with us please.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Why fix something that isn't broken?

I'm a very quiet, personal person at heart and I try to keep my mouth from running because it sometimes gets me into trouble. I believe this may be one of those times, but I don't give a hoot. What I would like to know is, "Why is DPL trying to fix Mariana Resort?" Dude, it's not broken; why fix it? Why are you telling them to put a bid in? It's not as if it's their first time here on Saipan looking for a location! You should have this resort's back, because they have been here the longest and they do support the people of Saipan with jobs. This is one of the resorts that employ a majority of the local people, seriously. This is one of the best—the best!—resort here on Saipan!

Dude, Mariana Resort has been here through thick and thin (Don't you see or get it? Or is there a blindfold covering your eyes?). During the time we had a recession, they were still afloat. They still catered to everyone on the island. They did not back out, like some other hotels that are no longer around (don't know the real reasons they closed but they did so anyway). Where did the employees go? Some of them did not have jobs right away and some were lucky.

Dude, people have fond memories of this resort like me. Also, the Japanese couple who spoke on behalf of the resort. This place has a special part in their hearts. They started off as a couple, moved on and brought their children, grandchildren, and even friends of their grandchildren here. Memories—that's what this resort is all about. I mean, come on, a lot of us can go to PIC or World Resort and have fun in the pool, but where can you say, "I've been down to the beach area and it was so peaceful and quiet." The other hotels or resorts don't have place that you can go to and just enjoy the peace and quiet of the beach.

Mariana Resort keeps the tranquility of the beach area as the way it should be. If another company comes in—bam!—damage to the beach, noise at the beach. And their goes the nesting area for the green sea turtles at Wing Beach. Yup, once you give another company that chance, there goes the beach and then you will hear my voice asking for Fish and Wildlife to fine them for what they may do! Mariana Resort has not touched that area for anything that may deal with the resort. But the new one will and, who knows, you may give it to them because of what they can give you. What's that saying that sucks…"it's not what you know, it's who you know." It should say like this now: "It's not who you know, but what can you give me."

Dude, we had Plumeria Resort, Palms Hotel, and La Fiesta that were abandoned by the owners and the government for quite a while. Why pick on a place that is thriving? Why? Why? Why? Did the owner of the resort turn you down for something that you requested and now you decided this is the best way for you to get back at them? Petty, petty, petty. Only kids do that. (If I'm wrong, tell me and tell me that I don't know what I'm saying.) I'm still trying to understand why are you trying to close something that is working and not losing money. Hey, if money is the thing here, Mariana Resort is still doing fine! Telling them that you have this policy? What policy and since when did you have it in place? I'd like to know and see it. Put it up on paper for all to see this policy. Really, put the policy in the paper so that all the people of Saipan can see and understand what you are trying to do to an icon that has been here for a long time. Did you tell them that after they signed their lease? Did you keep it from them and let them think that they can keep the place until they want to leave? To me, it looks like you are chasing away something that is still great and still going strong, from our island. Shame, shame, shame, shame! To me, you don't know how to keep businesses that are good for us, you are showing us that you only want $$$$$$! You don't care about us, you care about yourself.

Here is a suggestion from a lowly citizen that the government does not care about…oh wait, they only care about the citizens when it's election time (hurts, doesn't it?): Utilize all the buildings that are abandoned. La Fiesta can be utilized again as a mall or, better yet, use it for the casino. Why does a casino have to always be in a hotel?

Judith Castro
As Matuis, Saipan

Hawaii longline bigeye fishery are forced to close

HONOLULU—The National Marine Fisheries Service has announced that Hawaii longline vessels fishing in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean will no longer be able to retain and land bigeye tuna between Aug. 5, 2015, and the end of the year. This is because the fishery has reached a bigeye catch limit of 3,502 metric tons, established by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission in 2014.

The United States is a member of the WCPFC, which is an international fisheries organization consisting of over 30 countries charged with managing tuna and other highly migratory fish stocks in the WCPO. The WCPO is the world's largest tuna fishery, driven by the industrial purse-seine fleets targeting skipjack and yellowfin, with recent annual catches estimated at around 3,000,000 mt.

Longline catch limits are among a suite of measures adopted by the WCPFC for the conservation and management of WCPO bigeye. Overexploitation of bigeye has developed over the past 30 years with increasing catches of juveniles by purse-seine vessels, on top of the catch of adults by longliners. Purse-seine vessels incidentally catch small bigeye while fishing on drifting fish aggregation devices when targeting skipjack and yellowfin for canned markets. Longline vessels target adult bigeye for sashimi markets.

» CNMI, Guam, A. Samoa can transfer bigeye quota to Hawaii longline fishery

No bigeye catch limits are required of the various fleets of tuna purse-seine vessels in the WCPO, which collectively catch more bigeye in total than the longline fleets. Over the past decade, longline fleets throughout the WCPO have reduced their bigeye catches consistent with WCPFC conservation and management measures. Purse-seine bigeye catches, however, continue to rise, reaching record levels in 2013 of 82,000 mt versus a longline catch in the same year of about 63,000 mt.

Although the WCPO will be restricted to Hawaii longline vessels, some will be able to fish for bigeye to the east of the 150 degree line of longitude in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, which is under a different international tuna management regime, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. However, Hawaii and other U.S. longline vessels in the EPO are subject to a 500 mt bigeye limit for vessels greater than 24 meters. This limit is expected to be reached sometime in September. Approximately, 23 percent of the Hawaii longline fleet is over 24 meters.

The effects of these closures are going to reduce the supply of Hawaii longline-caught bigeye tuna to the Honolulu fish auction. From an economic perspective, each Hawaii longline vessel can be likened to a "mom and pop store" or similar small business. Not being able to fish is like a store closing for the same amount of time, with disastrous effects on livelihoods.

There is a ray of light on the horizon for Hawaii consumers who prefer locally caught bigeye tuna. Under federal regulations recommended by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, the U.S. Participating Territories to the WCPFC, which include Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands, have the ability to transfer bigeye quota to the Hawaii longline fishery.

The Council has managed the Hawaii longline fleet for the past 30 years, and it continues to be a well-managed, highly monitored environmentally responsible fishery. The Hawaii fleet targets bigeye at high latitudes, well outside the tropical and equatorial zones, where 90 percent of bigeye fishing mortality occurs. Scientific research has shown that the operational area of the Hawaii fleet has very little impact on bigeye stock status.

The potential interruption in bigeye catch and the climate of uncertainty will have a negative impact on the seafood industry in Hawaii, especially for those dealers who prize U.S. caught bigeye above foreign imports. There is an increasing demand by local retailers to supply not only locally caught fish, but to know that the supply is also from the environmentally responsible Hawaii longline fleet. ***(Wespac)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mount Carmel School's faculty poses with AdvancED Accreditation External Evaluation Team, led by Leonard D. Paul, vice president for AdvancED's Northwest Region, front center.

MCS earns full 5-year accreditation with AdvancED

Mount Carmel School was informed recently that it had earned a full five-year accreditation term without a mid-term visit from AdvancED with the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement. The term is the longest term possible granted by the accrediting body.

The accreditation term was awarded based on the recommendations of an evaluation team that visited the school in March. Led by Leonard D. Paul, vice president for AdvancED's Northwest Region, the team included three administrative leaders from the CNMI Public School System: Naomi Nishimura, Paulette Sablan, and Leila Staffler.

In their review report, the evaluation team wrote: "Mount Carmel School is an effective school by many measures. … The energy and attention to improving instructional practices and the charismatic leadership of the president and the loyalty of the assistant principal have fostered a strong support from teachers and other stakeholders, enabling the opportunity to engage in a deliberate school wide improvement process."

In particular, the accreditation evaluation team recognized the "pride and love" that students expressed for their school. As the team noted in its report, "The reasons [students] gave were the feeling of home and family at the school. They feel like every adult cares about them as individuals, and not just as a student."

As part of the continuous quality improvement model of accreditation, the evaluation team also recommended the school grow in a number of areas. Specifically, the team recommended that the school develop a long-term strategic plan, continue improving instructional quality, use data analysis to improve student learning, and revisit its curriculum.

School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero was very happy with the news. "These findings from AdvancED not only validate all the great things happening at our school, but they will help us improve upon the solid foundation we have laid at our island's only Catholic school."

According to its organizational overview, "AdvancED is the largest community of education professionals in the world." AdvancED works with "32,000 schools and school systems—employing more than four million educators and enrolling more than 20 million students—across the United States and 70 other nations."

AdvancED was created through a 2006 merger of the PreK-12 divisions of the North Central Association and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools—and expanded through the addition of the Northwest Accreditation Commission in 2011. ***(MCS)***

SM Mart to hold grand reopening at its new location

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

SM Mart will be having its grand reopening at its new location at Springs Plaza, Middle Road in Chalan Laulau tomorrow. The new location provides a bigger shop with a lot more goods to choose from.

According to part-owner Marie Javier, they moved from their old place in San Jose because she wanted a bigger place for her customers.

"I really wanted a bigger place and for the customers to feel comfortable in their shopping. I also wanted to display our products better," Javier said.

They held their soft opening during the first week of this month after closing down their old place last June 30.

Javier also has a new partner in the business in the person of Helen Al-Alou.

SM Mart is like a mini-department store where anything from clothes to accessories to home needs can be found.

"Anything that you cannot find anywhere on Saipan, we have that," Javier said, adding that they cater especially to what Filipinos are used to having at home.

Some of the goods that they are proud to sell are a full line of infants and kids clothing as well as women's clothes.

They also sell Bench products—a popular clothing line in the Philippines—as they are its sole authorized distributor here.

Javier also boasted of their good pieces of furniture like their beds, cabinets and tables, and chairs as well as other home essentials like curtains and pillows. They also have jars, plates, and other kitchen needs. Small appliances can also be found here.

"[SM Mart has] a full selection for your necessities," Javier said.

Mariana Stamp and Coin Club to hold first meeting tomorrow

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

The CNMI's newly established Mariana Stamp and Coin Club will be having its first ever meeting tomorrow at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library in Susupe at 10am.

Founder Steven Connor wanted to provide a venue for members of the community who are interested in these kinds of collections.

"We're looking for people who have a general interest in stamps and coins," Connor said, "Maybe they have an old collection that was given to them by their parents, they don't know if it has any value, they don't know what it is, they can come and we can talk about it."

MSCC is a non-profit organization, which Connor founded as a kind of outreach to the community.

"I started thinking of how to contribute to the community and I thought this may be something that we can glean some history from," Connor said.

On the agenda of their first meeting is getting members on board and voting for officers. Aside from monthly meetings on Saipan, Connor is also looking at holding quarterly meetings on Tinian and Rota, especially because these places have rich postal history as well.

Connor is a retired USAF employee and has been living on Saipan since last year. He has been collecting stamps and coins since he was young.

"I've been a lifelong stamp collector. I've been collecting stamps since I got a Boy Scout stamp and coins I've always collected coins," he said.

Connor also wants the public, especially the younger generations, to know about the benefits of using postal mails in light of what happened recently to the CNMI's fiber optic cable.

"The young today, with all the emails going along, they have no concept of what it takes to mail a letter. They just don't know the capabilities and benefits they have. So that's part of the community outreach, understanding and increasing awareness of this benefit," he said.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We appeal to the community for help

I have been a part of the Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd. family for seven years now. There are no words to describe the beauty and passion that this company has for its people and the community as a whole. Since being employed here, all I've ever experienced are joyful and happy moments in the work environment. There are some stressful moments but those are either because I am hustling to meet a deadline or somehow I just can't balance my work. Other than that, I have considered my work to be my second home. It's home away from home.

Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd. has been here for 37 years that in my family, it's been in our generation to be employed here. My mother used to be a cashier here back in the '80s right after high school along with my auntie (her sister), back when Kan Pacific was only operating as a golf course and a restaurant on Navy Hill. My mother came back again to be a cashier back in the early '90s. Now with me, it's my first job ever and I myself am surprised to see that I am still employed here after seven years. Working here has been in our family that some of my first cousin and siblings have worked here either through direct hire or for summer jobs.

Some people might judge us just because we are way to the north end of the island and away from where it's busy but it's like a small piece of heaven for us due to the quietness of the area. Because of our location, it's like we are a mini-paradise on top of a paradise, being away from all the crowds and where it's busy. We have the beautiful views of the ocean, the Suicide Cliff just being to the north of us, and the beautiful orange flame trees.

All of these are going to change in 2018 when our lease is up. Our tourists, along with our repeater guests, won't be able to experience what we have to offer when our lease is up in 2018. My fellow colleagues and I won't have a job if there is no Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd. anymore. I won't have my second home anymore, my home away from home. A lot of us will be affected and I know that I will be affected emotionally as well since I have been part of this family for seven years now.

Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd. is a good, law-abiding company in paying our taxes, paying our employees their wages and salary, and giving back to the community. For the past 37 years, Kan Pacific has been giving back to the community and now I am asking for the community's help in return to please help support us in getting a new lease with DPL. I do not think that it's fair that, come our lease expiration in 2018, DLP will give my second home away to the highest bidder. It's not just fair for me, but also to the owners of the company—the Kitami family who was here to build Kan Pacific up from scratch to what it is right now.

We have 37 years of proven records to show proof that we have been here for 37 years and hopefully we can be here for much longer. These past 37 years proves that no matter what the situation is in regards to the economy, tourism, etc., Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd. has always been here and is still here to serve its people and the community and plans to continue serving.

Elfleda 'Ella' Santos
Accounting Supervisor
Mariana Resort and Spa

INSTANT Scratchies

Anonymous, Saipan
On June 19, 2015, the lucky winner went to Publix Market to purchase some goods. On his way out, he decided to try his luck by purchasing a couple of Hafa Adai Tickets. One of it was the $1,000 winning ticket! On the photo above is a representative of Publix Market receiving the prize on behalf of the lucky winner.

Mr. Borja, Saipan
On the morning of July 7, 2015. Mr. Borja visited Publix Market to purchase betelnuts. As he was checking out at the cash register area, he decided to spend his spare change by purchasing two Cash To Go Tickets. To his surprise, one of the tickets hides the Winning $1,000 Grand Prize! On the photo above is the lucky winner receiving his cash prize.

Mr. Ayuyu, Tinian
On the morning of July 9, 2015, Mr. Ayuyu was shopping at Lucky Quang Market in preparation for the upcoming Typhoon Nangka. On his way out, he decided to purchase two Lucky Pig Tickets, one of which was the winning $1,000 ticket! But unfortunately, due to the loss of connection between the islands, Mr. Ayuyu was not able to claim his prize until the following week.

Mr. Barcinas, Tinian
On July 27, 2015, Mr. Barcinas was running his typical morning routine of delivering fresh produce at U Save Market. Hoping to try his luck, he decided to buy five Lucky 7 Tickets. After scratching his newly purchased tickets, he realized he had won another five dollars, which he instantly redeemed for more tickets. One of which was the elusive $1,000 lucky ticket!

Mr. Hunter, Saipan
On June 29, 2015, Mr. Hunter was grocery shopping at Happy Market in As Lito. Hoping to try his luck, he decided to purchase three Tropical Plumeria Tickets. To his surprise, one of the ticket conceals the $1,000 Grand Prize! On the photo above are the store representatives of Happy Market receiving the grand prize on behalf of the lucky winner.

Mr. Camacho, Saipan
On July 29, 2015, on his way to drop his wife to work Mr. Camacho decided to drop by at JL Market to purchase snacks for his growing kids. As a previous grand prize winner, he was tempted to try his luck one more time, so he purchased 10 Star Spangled 7 Ticket. He won yet another $1,000 dollars! On the photo above is a representative from JL Market receiving the grand prize on behalf of Mr. Camacho.

Goodluck to all the players!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't kick out Mariana Resort

I have been following the request of Kan Pacific, Inc., the owner of Mariana Resort and Spa, to renew its public land lease in Marpi. Kan Pacific is the Japanese-owned company that built the first 18-hole golf course in the CNMI when the Commonwealth was just starting out in 1978. The company is as old as the Commonwealth itself.

Over the years, through thick and thin, Kan Pacific has weathered our economic ups and downs with the people of the Commonwealth. It never gave up on the Commonwealth. Almost 40 years have passed since the company started doing business here and its public land lease will be expiring soon. The company has been meeting with officials at the CNMI Department of Public Lands with respect to its request to enter into a new lease agreement that will begin when its present leasehold expires.

So what does DPL do with Kan Pacific's request to negotiate a new lease agreement? It tells Kan Pacific that it will instead invite all interested firms to submit proposals to lease the same property now being leased to Mariana Resort. In other words, notwithstanding the millions and millions of dollars in hotel, golf course, and other permanent improvements made by the company over the years, Kan Pacific will instead have to go back to "square one" and start all over again. It will have to compete with other interested firms over the same property that Kan Pacific has developed and improved over the years. If Kan Pacific's proposal loses, the proposer that is selected will have a huge "windfall" with all the improvements made by Kan Pacific over the years.

Is this fair, as a matter of public policy? Of course not. Mariana Resort has helped spur the growth of tourism in the CNMI. It has paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxes to the CNMI government over the years. The negative message that the CNMI government will be sending out to all those companies that have been leasing the CNMI public lands over the past 20, 30, and 40 years is this: When your public land lease expires, you will also be kicked out.

But if you are a close friends or crony of our government leaders, no request for proposal is required. And the best example of this is the recent leasehold grant of the "Samoan Housing" property to Best Sunshine in Garapan. No RFP was required to lease this property because the lessee is Best Sunshine. Best Sunshine, as we all know, is the company that was given the exclusive casino license for Saipan. CNMI government leaders went out of its way to give Best Sunshine the "royal treatment." Zoning rules and regulations were waived to accommodate all of the company's requests. Everything Best Sunshine wants from the Commonwealth government, it gets. This is, of course, unfair and smacks of cronyism.

As for Mariana Resort, it appears that it will be kicked out of its premises once its lease expires. The CNMI government will be kicking out the last Japanese-owned hotel in the CNMI, a hotel that has expended million and millions of dollars in improvements in the CNMI. It will kick out a company that has contributed to the growth of the CNMI tourist industry over the past four decades. It will kick out a company that has paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxes over the years. Is this the message that we also want to send out to the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, and all the other companies who are now leasing public lands? Of course not.

In order not to give this ominous message to our bona fide investors so that this will not happen, the Department of Public Lands has to adopt a sound public policy with respect to public land leases that are expiring. DPL must recognize that, with respect to public land leases that will soon be expiring, our public policy should be to give the existing lessees an opportunity to negotiate a new lease that is reasonable and fair. It should not kick out a tenant that has been a good corporate citizen for many years. DPL needs to realize that it is better to allow the existing tenants to have a new leasehold if they are contributing positively to the economy of the Commonwealth. It is better to adopt this positive policy rather than taking the risk that a new and untried investor will bring to the Commonwealth. This would be a fair policy. And fairness to existing leaseholders should always be the guiding principle for all government activities and functions.

I am, therefore, urging the governor, lawmakers, and DPL officials to please reconsider the DPL decision not to negotiate a new lease with Kan Pacific, Inc.

Enfin Serafin!

Alexandro 'Colonel' Sablan
Dandan, Saipan

Kan Pacific is part of our family

A letter to our elected leaders and to the people of our Commonwealth:

I am very much disappointed that we are not sincere in our intention to continue to support and encourage our foreign investors who are doing business on our islands. Investors who have chosen to make our islands their home. We forget to remember over time their contributions and their positive impact to our economy, their unnoticed sacrifices to learn and adapt to our island ways, our culture, so that they may become part of our island community.

Thirty-seven years ago, Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd. decided to set up business on Saipan. They chose to venture in an 18-hole golf course known as Mariana Country Club, a hotel and spa and entertainment for small children and their families. For all these 37 years, Kan Pacific has been a vital contributor to our island economy. The time they have spent and lived on our island basically and culturally qualifies them as family to the indigenous people of our Commonwealth.

It is understood and stated in our Commonwealth state law that after the first 40 years of land lease with the CNMI government with an investor, the government may choose to renew the lease for another 40 years with the same investor or may choose to lease the land to another investor. In the case of Kan Pacific, considering its dedication and commitment to invest, develop, and build all the structures, hotel, a golf resort, a spa, and a Go-kart circuit for the enjoyment of everyone, the young and the not-so-young, all of these 37 years it spent plus the tax dollars in our Commonwealth coffers and we cannot find it in our hearts to grant Kan Pacific a new 40-year lease and to continue to expand and contribute to our economy? Grant Kan Pacific an exemption from the request for proposal policy with the Department of Public Lands. That is the least we can give them as our token of appreciation for contributing to our CNMI economy for 37 years.

I call on all our elected leaders to join me and grant this exemption, the RFP, to Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd.

Lorenzo DlGuerrero
via email

Best Sunshine donates $10K to Saipan Beautification Fund

Members of the planning committee for the 2015 Tournament of Champions pose with Best Sunshine International Ltd. representatives with the $10,000 check. The Tournament of Champions will be held this Aug. 1 and 2 at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In support of environmental sustainability and fulfillment of its corporate social responsibility, Best Sunshine recently donated $10,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund to support the continued preservation and enrichment of Saipan's ecological attributes.

Best Sunshine's donation was made through a sponsorship of the 20th annual Tournament of Champions golf event that will take place at Lao Lao Bay Golf and Resort this weekend.

"We are extremely thankful for Best Sunshine's sponsorship," said Ben Babauta, the tournament's director. "The contribution sends a strong message about Best Sunshine's commitment to be established as a strong supporter of the local community."

Donations to SBF shall be channeled directly to improvement projects including tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort Saipan, the revitalization of the Garapan special district, and most recently the beautification of the Port to Park pathway. Another project in the works in the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway.

"Best Sunshine will continue to spread its diversity of commitment to the community at all levels. We consider it of utmost important to support environmental sustainability. We are especially dedicated to preserving this beautiful Northern Marianas Islands and safeguarding its survival for future generations," said Best Sunshine CEO Mark A. Brown. "We are pleased to align ourselves with activities in the community and support SBF with its dedicated effort in overseeing improvements to the unique tropical environment here on Saipan."

The Tournament of Champions will be held on Aug. 1 and 2 with attractive awards and dollar prizes including brand new vehicles, cash prizes, and airline tickets, generously sponsored by supporting patrons. ***(TOC)***

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* Nissan Rogue Select retail price $20,905.20 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $348.42 or $160.80 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $21,855.60.

Hours extended for temporary water outage

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has extended the temporary water outage for customers in the vicinity of Capital Hill as work continues on a water line and pressure improvement project.

Customers near Capital Hill, Wireless Ridge, and portions of Chalan Galaide remain without water service while CUC Water personnel and CUC's contractor, Maeda Inc., work to connect the new water main to the current distribution line on Capital Hill.

There is no timeline for the work to be completed but CUC and Maeda Inc. personnel will work until water service is restored to the area.

For more information about the project, contact our 24-hour Call Center at 664-4CUC (4282). ***(CUC)***

DYS sets public hearings on grant program

The Division of Youth Services under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will be conducting public hearings on the Social Services Block Grant state plan on the following dates/time:

- Saipan: Aug. 10, 6pm to 7pm, Multi-Purpose Center
- Tinian: Aug. 11, 5pm to 6pm, Tinian Youth Center
- Rota: Aug. 13, 6pm to 7pm, Sinapalo Youth Center

The basic programs that would be implemented under the Social Services Block Grant Consolidation for the CNMI are based on achieving the following goals: self-support, self-sufficiency, protective services, preventing or reducing inappropriate institutional care and securing other forms of care.

An electronic copy of the draft 2016 SSBG state plan may be viewed at these links: http://www.gov.mp/ or http://www.dcca.com/.

A copy of the state plan may also be picked up at the DYS Office of the Administrator on Capital Hill (right across the Legislature). For more information or to submit written comments, contact DYS grant writer Rita M. Castro or DYS Administrator Vivian T. Sablan at 664-2550/2551. ***(PR)***

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Visiting Worldwide Marriage Encounter Section 12 Executive Couple Joe and Sue Talarico; Fr. Ike Ayuyu; and Charles and Cathy Cepeda, CNMI Marriage Encounter Ecclesial Team, visit Bishop Emeritus Tomas A. Camacho at his residence. Camacho is founder of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter in the CNMI. On Wednesday, July 22, Ayuyu and the Cepedas said "yes" to extending their leadership term to lead the CNMI Marriage Encounter community.

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Contact Tony Muna
(Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address:plebechamp80@gmail.com)
or Ben Sablan (Email Address: ben.sablan1994@gmail.com)
or Call 234-2585/235-9020

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building,
Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW-15-RFP-008

Topographic and As-Built Survey for Nativo Drive, Saipan

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals for **Topographic and As-Built Survey for Nativo Drive**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulation.

Prior to being awarded a contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Florence C. Sablan, Executive Director, at (670) 234-5897/5898 or fax (670) 234-6040.

The Request for Proposal and Scope of Work is available on or after **July 17, 2015** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan.

A **Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference** is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center on **August 05, 2015.** Questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 2:30 p.m. local time **August 12, 2015**. Responses to questions shall be shared by prospective proposers.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (resumes and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than ten (10) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only sub-consultants may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **Qualifications of Principal(s) and Staff assigned to the Project – 40%**
2. **Experience and Past Performance of Firm (s) on similar Project – 35%**
3. **Response to Request For Proposal – 15%**
4. **Cost – 10%**

Sealed proposals must be marked **"DPW-15-RFP-008"**. For Proposers within the CNMI, one original and five copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **August 21, 2015** to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposal must be received by the director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local **August 21, 2015**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, an original and five copies sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 21, 2015** and must be received no later than **September 01, 2015**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be caused for rejection of a proposal.

Architect-Engineer Services, CNMI P/R No. 70-30.3-305

1. Contracts shall be negotiated on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications at a fair and reasonable price.
2. Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determine to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.
3. Fee proposals are solicited; however this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified firms. Such fee proposals may be used by the purchasing agency in determining a fair and reasonable contract price.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for the project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ **JAMES A. ADA**
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement & Supply

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- Chorizos 3lb. $19.99 EA. LIMIT: 2
- FILMA Oil 20ltr. $28.99 EA. 5ltr. $7.99 EA.
- Bright Corn 69¢ EA.
- Magic Sarap 8g x 12 $1.19 EA.
- Bowl Noodles (Picante & Kimchi) $8.99 EA.
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- Maxwell Coffee Mix 20's $1.79
- Ace Diamond Tuna $1.49 EA.
- Coco Tuna $1.49 EA.
- Ligo Sardines 155g 3 FOR $1.00
- Campbell's Chicken Noodles 305g 99¢
- Olive Oil 2L. $8.99 EA.
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- Spam $2.49 EA.
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- Whole Vlasic (1 gal) $6.99 EA.
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- Nestle Coffeemate 50oz. $7.99 EA.
- Carnation Evap Milk (US) $1.29 EA.
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- Oranges 99¢ /LB.
- Watermelon (local) 69¢ /LB.
- Cantaloupe $1.29 /LB.
- Honeydew $1.29 /LB.
- Lettuce Cello $1.49 /LB.
- Grapes seedless $2.49 /LB.
- Lemon (US) $1.99 /LB.
- Apple (88 ct.) $1.39 /LB.
- Apple Cello $3.99 BAG
- X-Large White Egg $3.79 TRAY
- Brown Egg (M) Organic $3.49 TRAY

NON-FOOD

- Maxx Butane $22.99 CASE
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- Special Value Bleach $4.99 EA.
- Big Roll Paper Towel $1.99 EA.
- Charmin' Ultra (24 rolls) $7.99 EA.
- Safeguard Soap 79¢ EA.
- Purex (50 oz) all kinds $3.99 EA.
- Suave Shampoo 12oz. 2 FOR $3.00 EA.

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Consolation Prizes:
100 Soft drinks

9/01 12noon
Prize - **TV50"**
20 consolation prizes

10/01 12noon
Prize: **$1000 cash**
20 consolation prizes

11/1 3pm
Prize: **$3,000 cash**
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1 ipad air
1 ipad mini
4 of 100 Shopping Spree certificate
60 of Consolation Prizes

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Deadline extended for 'Discover the Future of Saipan' art contest

The submission deadline for Best Sunshine International's "Discover the Future of Saipan" Art Competition has been extended to Aug. 3 due to prior Internet problems.

» Submit artwork by Aug. 3, before 12pm at Marianas Business Plaza, Room 204

Best Sunshine is welcoming CNMI citizens of all ages to submit artistic interpretations of the future of Saipan for the "Discover the Future of Saipan" Art Competition. As the focus of the artwork is the future, young artist submission is welcome and encouraged, so those who missed out on the last deadline are advised to submit their artwork by Monday, before 5pm, at the Marianas Business Plaza, Room 204.

Artwork must depict the future of Saipan and must contain local elements of native hospitality and/or elements of the CNMI tourism industry. Please be reminded that digital artwork or photography will not be accepted. Artwork must be on a minimum size of 16-inch x 23-inch frame or poster board.

The top 3 entries that receive the most votes by the end of business on Aug. 4, 2015 (5pm) will be considered the winning entries and will receive cash prizes for back-to-school expenses or art supplies. The top 10 to 20 entries will also have the opportunity to be featured in a high-visibility campaign. You can pick up artist registration forms at the Mariana Business Plaza, Room 204.

For more information on the contest rules, contact bsiartcompetition@gmail.com. ***(BSI)***

Mesta joins 7 other nominees for annual award

Josephine DLG Mesta, director of human resources at Hyatt Regency Saipan, has been named one of the eight nominees for the 2015 Businesswoman of the Year *Maga'håga* award.

According to First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* in a statement yesterday, this year's nominees are Mesta, Edith V. Alvarez, general manager, Patterson Enterprises; Joann G. Camacho, director of market development, DFS Guam; Grace C. Donaldson, general manager, Pacific Human Resource Services, Inc.; Kristine R. Lujan, marketing director, Triple J Enterprises; Sandra H. McKeever, president, Asia Pacific Financial Management Group; Rosario "Chet" B. Neri, international sales manager, Leo Palace Resort Guam; and Chen-yi "Jenny" Yang, owner and managing director, Globest LLC which does business as GNC.

The *Maga'håga* award will be presented to one winner at the Businesswoman of the Year Gala on Sunday, Sept. 6, at the Hyatt Regency Guam together with the release of the *Guam Business Magazine* September–October issue, which will feature a commissioned photo of the recipient on its cover.

In its 10th year, the award program recognizes businesswomen in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands who have made significant contributions to their industries and have demonstrated a strong commitment to their community.

Through proceeds from the gala, the program also funds scholarships for students pursuing business and related degrees at the University of Guam, Guam Community College and Northern Marianas College.

Last year's Businesswoman of the Year *Maga'håga* award recipient was Shirley Ann T. Sablan, executive vice president and general manager of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI) GOVERNMENT

RFP15 – RED004

PUBLISHED DATE(S): July 17, 24, 31
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 04, 2015

"LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN"

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified companies or individuals for the purpose of commercial leasing and developing the following public lands (former MPLC building and adjacent lot to the south):

1) Lot 186 E 02, containing an area of approximately 9,127 square meters, more or less, in Capitol Hill, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as is, and

2) Lot 204 E 01, containing an area of approximately 13,921square meters, more or less, in Capitol Hill, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as is.

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the Department of Public Lands office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. A non-refundable fee of **Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (US $3,500.00)** is required to receive an RFP Packet. Payment must be made by certified or cashier's check payable to: ***Department of Public Lands***.

Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by mail. The request must be received by DPL no later than July 31, 2015, 4:30pm ChST, reference **"RFP15-RED004 LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN"**, and include a certified or cashier's check payable to Department of Public Lands for the amount of US$3,500.00. RFP packets issued to proposers will be numbered for identification and shall not be copied for distribution to other parties. Requests and payment should be sent to the address shown below.

Questions from proposing firms regarding the contents of the RFP packet must be received, **no later than 4:30 pm on Friday, July 31, 2015 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to Mr. Pedro A. Tenorio, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: pete.tenorio@dpl.gov.mp

Response to questions will be summarized and shared with all proposers in a "Question and Answer" format.

The DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the DPL.

/s/ PEDRO A. TENORIO
Secretary, Department of Public Lands

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BIDS

This ad is paid with HUD Funds by NMHC

NMHC IFB 2015-008

Ground Maintenance Services for NMHC's Scattered Properties in Saipan

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the ground maintenance services for its properties in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan, beginning Monday, July 20, 2015, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m., during regular business hours, except CNMI holidays.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Conference Room located in Garapan on **Monday, August 3, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.** Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the scattered properties owned by NMHC to be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visits are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements, and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m., local time on Friday, August 7, 2015 to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director. Responses to questions shall be shared with other prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-IFB 2015-008**. For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m., local time Friday, August 14, 2015.** Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Friday, August 14, 2015**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Friday, August 14, 2015**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **Tuesday, August 25, 2015.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **10:00 a.m., local time, Wednesday, August 26, 2015.** However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time on Friday, August 14, 2015.**

All labor on this project shall be paid no less that the minimum wage rate of $6.05 per hour which took effect on September 30, 2014 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of $0.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor, whichever is higher.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968, which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extend feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in the CNMI.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a reasonability determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section NMIAC 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

The Commonwealth Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined by the government to be in the best interest. All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer"

Fee waivers for participants of NMC's info session on Aug. 5

Individuals who participate in the Northern Marianas College's free information session will qualify to receive fee waivers for the NMC admission application and placement tests for the upcoming fall 2015 semester—a savings of up to $75.

The information session will take place on Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2015, in Room D-1 at the As Terlaje campus from 5pm to 6pm.

Those interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend this event to meet and speak with faculty and staff from the college's different degree and certificate programs.

Admissions, financial aid, and other NMC staff will also be on hand to answer questions and to assist in the admissions and financial aid process.

The college will also be accepting admissions application for the fall 2015 semester at the information session. The deadline for submitting applications is July 31, 2015, but the college is making an exception for those who attend and submit their application at the information session.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management (new); associate degrees business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For more information about the information session and/or applying to NMC, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6770, email oar@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Air Force training at Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Aug. 1, from midnight to 3am. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the area during the date and time indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

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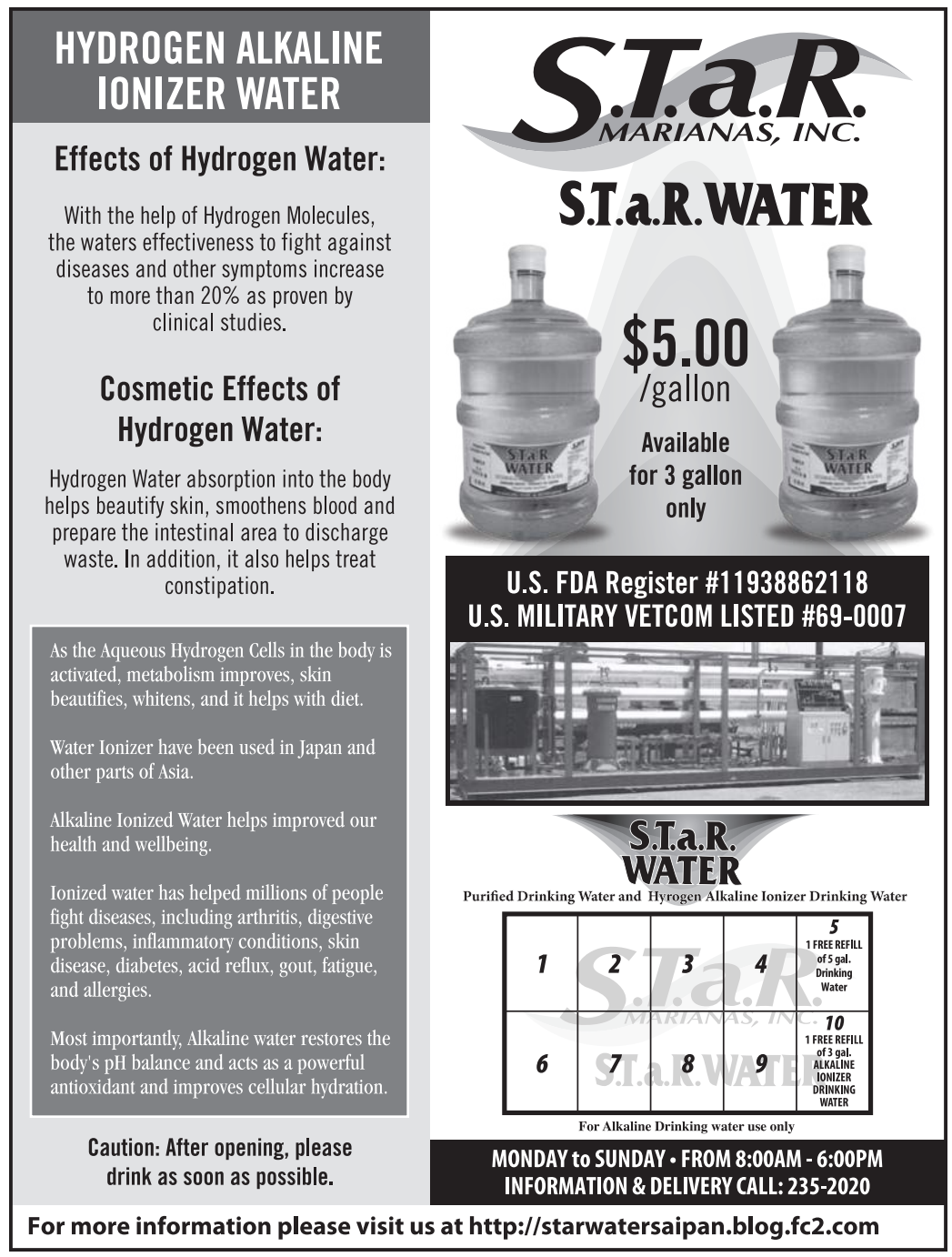
Express Financial is located at Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road, San Jose Village, Saipan
Tel. 670-235-6032
Fax: 670-235-6040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Nation

Minnesota man who killed lion keeps low profile amid outrage

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—A Minnesota dentist who killed a well-known, protected lion while on a hunt in Zimbabwe has advised his patients to seek care elsewhere since becoming a target of outrage from across the world.

Walter James Palmer remained secluded in the face of protests Wednesday at his suburban Minneapolis clinic and intense condemnation online. He has not appeared in public since being identified Tuesday as a party to the lion's death but has said in a statement that he was unaware the lion was protected and that he relied on his guides to ensure a legal hunt.

Palmer, whose practice offers general and cosmetic dentistry, is an active big-game hunter, with many kills to his name, some of them registered with hunting clubs.

The North Dakota native "enjoys all outdoor activities," according to the biography page on his now-dark clinic website. "Anything allowing him to stay active and observe and photograph wildlife is where you will find Dr. Palmer when he not in the office."

In Zimbabwe, a hunting guide and a farm owner appeared in court Wednesday on allegations they helped Palmer kill the lion, named Cecil. And the head of Zimbabwe's safari association said the big cat with the black mane was lured into the kill zone and denied "a chance of a fair chase."

The Zimbabwean men were accused of aiding Palmer, who reportedly paid $50,000 to track and kill a lion. Zimbabwe police have said they are looking for Palmer, whose exact whereabouts were unknown.

Palmer, 55, referenced the situation in a note to his patients. "I understand and respect that not everyone shares the same views on hunting," he wrote in the letter, which was obtained by the local Fox television affiliate, KMSP.

ACROSS THE NATION

Top officials critical of Ohio cop indicted on murder charge

CINCINNATI (AP)—Some of the sharpest criticism of a police officer after the slaying of an unarmed black man is coming from top law enforcement and Cincinnati officials this time. Wednesday's indictment of University of Cincinnati police officer Ray Tensing on a charge of murder in the traffic-stop shooting was applauded by the victim's family and some community activists. It also won approval from city officials in a city roiled by racial violence that erupted in 2001 after an unarmed black man was killed by Cincinnati police after a string of earlier shootings by officers. Forty-three-year-old Samuel DuBose's July 19 shooting death comes amid months of national scrutiny of police dealings with African-Americans, especially those killed by officers. Authorities so far have not focused on race in DuBose's death.

Teen charged in death of 8-year-old to appear in court

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (AP)—A 15-year-old boy charged with murder, kidnapping and rape in the death of an 8-year-old girl in an artists' complex in a California beach town is scheduled to appear in court. Police say Adrian Jerry Gonzalez lured Madyson Middleton into his family's apartment from a courtyard where she had been riding her scooter over the weekend. Once inside, he tied her up, sexually assaulted and killed her, according a charging document. Gonzalez is expected to be arraigned Thursday in a Santa Cruz court. Gonzalez remains in custody at the Santa Cruz County juvenile detention center, where he has been held since the girl's body was found in a recycling bin Monday evening.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR MASTER PLANNING SERVICES

BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
MASTER PLAN UPDATE
PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-001-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Master Planning Services for the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

These services are being funded by the Federal Aviation Administration and CPA. This service procurement is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com by no later than Friday, July 24, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Similar work experience in airport master planning, including, but not limited to needs analysis, design, cost estimating, environmental review and permitting – (25 points)
2. Capability to perform all aspects of the project, such as analysis, planning, environmental evaluations, financial analysis and architectural and engineering design (25 points)
3. Level of proficiency in performing services promptly; and level of experience with the CPA projects – (15 points);
4. The general reputation of the consultant in terms of quality of work experience and services performed for projects, and the consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
5. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (10 points); and
6. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, August 7, 2015**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer
Date: July 16, 2015

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP15-OPA-116

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 18, 2015 **TIME: 10:00A.M.**

"CNMI SINGLE AUDIT ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 (CNMI/CHCC) FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 18, 2015 AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MICHAEL PAI
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government
INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB15-DFEMS-114
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: AUGUST 26, 2015 TIME: 10:00 AM

"SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TWO (2) 2015 MODEL YEAR PERSONAL WATERCRAFT TO BE USED FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICALS SERVICES"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in any bid in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/S/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA
Comissioner, DFEMS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government
INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB15-DFEMS-115
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: AUGUST 26, 2015 TIME: 10:30 AM

"SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF 140 COMPLETE SET OF BRAND NEW 2015 MODEL YEAR FIREFIGHTER TURN-OUT GEAR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in any bid in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/S/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA
Comissioner, DFEMS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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AMENDED
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR MASTER PLANNING SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
MASTER PLAN UPDATE
PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-002-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Master Planning Services for the Tinian International Airport, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

These services are being funded by the Federal Aviation Administration and CPA. This service procurement is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com by no later than Friday, July 24, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Similar work experience in airport master planning, including, but not limited to needs analysis, design, cost estimating, environmental review and permitting – (25 points)
2. Capability to perform all aspects of the project, such as analysis, planning, environmental evaluations, financial analysis and architectural and engineering design (25 points)
3. Level of proficiency in performing services promptly; and level of experience with the CPA projects – (15 points);
4. The general reputation of the consultant in terms of quality of work experience and services performed for projects, and the consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
5. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (10 points); and
6. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2015**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer
Date: July 16, 2015

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6822/23/24 • Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu • Website: www.nmcnet.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 15-004
ROOF REPLACEMENT, BUILDING J, NMC AS TERLAJE, SAIPAN CAMPUS

Northern Marianas College is soliciting sealed bid for the Roof Replacement of Building J at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje, Saipan Campus.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan, commencing Tuesday, June 30, 2015 between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting and site inspection for interested person, firms and corporation will be held on July 14, 2015 at 10:00am, NMC Procurement Management Office, Bldg. L, 2nd floor, conference room.

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., July 31, 2015, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

This procurement is 100% Federally Funded by the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by:

/s/Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

/s/ David J. Attao
Dean of Administration Resource Development

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government
INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB15-DPS-111
SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: AUGUST 11, 2015 TIME 10:00 A.M.
E-BID SUBMISSION TO: procurement@pticom.com IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED ON THIS ITB.

"PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF CISCO ROUTERS AND SWITCHES HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE WITH LICENSE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

Copies of the Specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commmonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
Comissioner of Public Safety

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: RFP15-DOF/REV-075
SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 20, 2015 TIME; 10:00 A.M.

"CNMI TECHNICAL TAX CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION"

Copies of the Scope or Work may be obtained on or after **July 23, 2015** at the Division of Revenue and Taxation, Central Office, Dandan Commercial Center, Saipan, during regular working hours.

A **pre-proposal conference** will be held on **August 11, 2015 at 9:00 a.m., local time** at the Division of Revenue and Taxation, Dandan.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Government

/s/ **LARRISA C. LARSON**
Secretary of Finance

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

World

US official: Plane debris in Indian Ocean same type as MH370

WASHINGTON (AP)—Air safety investigators have a "high degree of confidence" that aircraft debris found in the Indian Ocean is of a wing component unique to the Boeing 777, the same model as the Malaysia Airlines plane that disappeared last year, a U.S. official said Wednesday.

Air safety investigators—one of them a Boeing investigator—have identified the component that was found on the French island of Reunion in the western Indian Ocean as a "flaperon" from the trailing edge of a 777 wing, the U.S. official said.

Given that there are no other missing 777s, if the piece is confirmed to be from such an aircraft, it would almost certainly have to belong to Flight 370, which vanished on March 8, 2014, with 239 people on board while traveling from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

A discovery of debris from the missing plane would confirm the prevailing belief based on satellite data that the plane turned south into the Indian Ocean after vanishing from radar, and put to rest other theories that it traveled north, or landed somewhere after being hijacked.

The piece itself could also help investigators figure out how the plane crashed. But whether it will help search crews pinpoint the rest of the wreckage is unclear, given the complexity of the currents in the southern Indian Ocean and the time that has elapsed since the plane disappeared.

A French official close to an investigation of the debris confirmed Wednesday that French law enforcement is on Reunion to examine a piece of airplane wing that was found. A French television network was airing video from its Reunion affiliate of the debris. U.S. investigators are examining a photo of the debris.

The U.S. and French officials spoke on condition that they not be named because they aren't authorized to speak publicly.

If the part is from Flight 370, it would be the first debris found from the vanished airliner. A massive multinational search effort of the southern Indian Ocean, the China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand has turned up no trace of the plane.

The last primary radar contact with Flight 370 placed its position over the Andaman Sea about 370 kilometers (230 miles) northwest of the Malaysian city of Penang. Reunion is about 5,600 kilometers (3,500 miles) southwest of Penang, and about 4,200 kilometers (2,600 miles) west of the current search area.

At the United Nations, Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai told reporters that he has sent a team to verify the identity of the plane wreckage.

"Whatever wreckage found needs to be further verified before we can ever confirm that it is belonged to MH370," he said.

The discovery is unlikely to alter the seabed search, said Australian Transport Safety Bureau Chief Commissioner Martin Dolan, who is heading up the hunt in a remote patch of ocean far off the west coast of Australia. If the find proved to be part of the missing aircraft, it would be consistent with the theory that the plane crashed within the 120,000 square kilometer (46,000 square mile) search area, 1,800 kilometers (1,100 miles) southwest of Australia, he said.

"It doesn't rule out our current search area if this were associated with MH370," Dolan told The Associated Press. "It is entirely possible that something could have drifted from our current search area to that island."

Dolan said search resources would be better spent continuing the seabed search with sonar and video for wreckage rather than reviving a surface search for debris if the part proved to be from Flight 370.

It was well understood after the aircraft disappeared that if there was any floating debris from the plane, Indian Ocean currents would eventually bring it to the east coast of Africa, said aviation safety expert John Goglia, a former member of the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board. But the debris is unlikely to provide much help in tracing the oceans currents back to the location of the main wreckage, he said.

WORLD BRIEFS

IMF's Lagarde: World economy fragile, faces downside risks

WASHINGTON (AP)—International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde says the world economy is recovering but fragile and "faces some downside risks." In an online press conference Wednesday, Lagarde described the United States "a strong performer" and China "resilient" despite a recent drop in Chinese stock prices. She also expressed optimism for the 19 countries that use the euro. The IMF expects the eurozone economy to grow 1.5 percent this year and 1.7 percent in 2016; it expanded just 0.8 percent in 2014. "The euro area is beginning to turn the corner ... We have a more upbeat forecast than we have in a long time," she said. Lagarde called again for Greece's creditors to reduce its debt burden. She said Greece needs to enact reforms that will make its economy more efficient and expressed

Drachma revolt adds unease to Greece's awkward alliance

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' power-sharing acrobatics look harder to perform by the day. Opposition parties are propping up his left-wing government long enough to negotiate a new bailout and keep the country in the eurozone, while senior members of his own party, Syriza, have revived a campaign to bring back the drachma. On Thursday, lead bailout negotiators are due in Athens. They will intensify a new round of talks for a massive third rescue package after Athens and lenders from other eurozone countries reached a bitterly fought compromise. But Tsipras has a more pressing priority. He will be battling to keep control of Syriza at a meeting of the party's 200-member executive, facing dissenters who argue the Left has abandoned its principles over the past six months under the country's popular prime minister.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Jenny U. Francisco Petitioner, vs. Jose F. Francisco Respondent,	FCD-D1 CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0328 SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEARBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make the Complaint, a copy of which is on file within the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 503210, Saipan, MP, 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 13th day of July, 2015

/s/ Clerk of Court

AYUDA NETWORK, INC.

COMMONWEALTH RESPITE SERVICE PROGRAM

"Family Respite: Worthwhile Giving

The Commonwealth Respite Service Program, under the Ayuda Network, Inc. is inviting family caregivers, private clinics, service providers and all interested individuals for a one day workshop on "Family Respite: Worthwhile Giving" on August 14th, 2015 from 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

The purpose of the workshop is to provide information for respite services from private and government agencies and availability of services for families with children and adults with developmental disabilities, primary caregivers of aging parents/relatives, and medically fragile individuals.

To register for the workshop, please call Ayuda Network, Inc. at 322-7469 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registration deadline for this workshop is August 7th at 3:30 p.m.

Off The Wall

Diner en Blanc: New York leads the world's biggest popup picnic

NEW YORK (AP)—Five thousand people dressed in white got together for the world's largest popup picnic at a location revealed only at the last moment.

Guests for Tuesday's Diner en Blanc, French for Dinner in White, showed up at one of 24 designated spots where the secret venue was disclosed.

Then came the spectacle: dining and dancing under the open sky at Pier 26 on the Hudson River in Manhattan's tony Tribeca neighborhood. Participants brought what they wanted for a chic BYO, including food, tables, chairs and even silverware and candles. They also had to clean up after themselves.

AP

People dressed in white have dinner on Pier 26 along the Hudson River during the Diner en Blanc event, Tuesday, July 28, 2015, in New York.

Wendy Chang, a Hawaii native who works for an architectural firm that helped build One World Trade Center, bought the white chairs she shared with friends at IKEA. While there, she also spotted the headdress she wore Tuesday night: a white lampshade.

"This is great for people watching," she said. "I love it."

Cindy Joseph, a Brooklyn insurance analyst, called the evening "amazing."

"You meet great new people under the stars," she said.

Joseph said she and a friend brought their supplies on the subway.

Each participant preregistered for the event, paying $30. Food and drinks also were available at cost.

The phenomenon started in Paris in 1988 and has expanded to 60 cities on five continents, but organizers say the one in New York is the biggest. More than 125,000 people signed up this year.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Soup kitchen offers free meal for return of Jesus statue

PAWTUCKET, R.I. (AP)—"Have you found Jesus?" That's what employees at a Rhode Island soup kitchen are asking after a religious statue disappeared from the kitchen's garden. Pawtucket Soup Kitchen Director Adrienne Marchetti says on Wednesday that she last saw the statue, which depicts Joseph carrying the baby Jesus, on July 20. Marchetti says the kitchen staff will take back the statue, no questions asked, and even offer a free meal to the person who returns it. Marchetti says the 3-foot statue is made of plaster or a similar material and is not valuable. She says the statue inspires the volunteers at the kitchen and brings "good mojo" to the garden where it has sat for 6 years. Marchetti says it's possible someone took it to repair Joseph's head, which was coming loose.

Fugitive's role in horror film leads to his arrest

TACOMA, Wash. (AP)—A fugitive has been arrested after federal agents saw his photo in a Washington state newspaper that ran a story about a low-budget horror movie. The News Tribune reports that 44-year-old Jason Stange, a convicted bank robber, plays a leading role in the movie "Marla Mae." The Olympian newspaper ran a feature story on the film Friday with photos that showed Stange on the film set in Olympia. Federal agents tracked down Stange and arrested him Friday at a restaurant near the set. Stange pleaded guilty to an armed bank robbery in 2006 and was given a prison sentence of more than nine years. A federal probation violation warrant was issued last year after Stange left a halfway house. The film's producer says Stange will remain in the film, scheduled for release next year.

Summer snow turns Wyoming mountains into winter wonderland

TETON VILLAGE, Wyo. (AP)—The middle of summer looked like the middle of winter in the mountains of western Wyoming. A cold front that moved through Monday afternoon dumped heavy rain on the valleys and snow above 9,000 feet. Officials at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort say they saw the storm coming and shut down their tram before it hit. Resort spokeswoman Anna Olson she didn't hear of any problems from the snowy weather. She says an inch accumulated at most, but some stuck around until Tuesday. Photos of the snow posted by the resort on Facebook triggered excitement among skiers—with four months to go yet until ski season. Olson says snow in July isn't unheard of but she hasn't seen it for several years.

New Hampshire baby receives lifetime hunting-fishing license

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—A 6-month-old New Hampshire boy has become the first child to get a newborn hunting and fishing license in the state. Daylen Brickley's grandfather read about the state program in a hunting and fishing magazine. The family from Milford bought the license July 23, the first day it was available. New Hampshire Fish and Game officials are offering a lifetime, combined hunting and fishing license that can be purchased for those under a year old. Daylen will be able to redeem his fishing license when he turns 16 and redeem his hunting license after he completes the state's hunter education course. The lifetime license costs $300 plus a fee of $4.50. A seasonal fishing and hunting license costs $46 per year.

Cops: 2-state chase began over warrant for stolen underwear

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Police say a man who led officers on a wild two-hour chase spanning two states had been facing charges of stealing $21 worth of underwear from a supermarket. Police records show 54-year-old Robert Ritter was accused of stealing a pack of underwear and a package of T-shirts on July 9 from a supermarket in Brooklawn, New Jersey. Authorities say he also shoved a security officer. He also faces stalking charges in Gloucester Township, New Jersey. Ritter had two warrants out for his arrest, and police spotted his van Monday night. Ritter drove into Philadelphia, back into New Jersey, and then back into Philadelphia. The pursuit ended in Philadelphia when a police car bumped the van, causing it to flip over.

Science & Technology

New Toyota robot can pick up after people and help the sick

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP)—Toyota's new robot that glides around like R2-D2 is devoted to a single task: picking things up.

HSR, short for "human support robot," comes with a single mechanical arm that can grasp objects of various shapes and sizes and also pick up smaller items with a tiny suction cup.

It doesn't have other tricks in its repertoire, except for a computer panel on its head for surfing the Internet. A person can also access the robot from another computer and use it like a camera-phone.

Kouichi Ikeda, its engineer, is serious about using it to help around regular homes. First people with disabilities, and then for the elderly in general. Picking up is especially challenging for people with spinal disorders and other ailments that hamper the ability to stoop down and grab, he said.

"Although it can only do one simple task of picking up, it's already making disabled people quite happy. We're just getting stated, but eventually we want it to enter people's homes," Ikeda said at an exhibition of health care technology in Yokohama, southwest of Tokyo.

AP

In this July 24, 2015 photo, Toyota's new HSR, short for "human support robot," is seen at a welfare and nursing exposition in Yokohama, south of Tokyo.

Nearly 40 percent of Japan's population will be 65 or older by 2060, and with the rest of the developed world and some developing nations following that track, Toyota is banking on the demand for robot helpers to grow.

"People feel more comfortable asking a robot to pick up after them than asking a human helper," said Tadashi Hatakenaka, manager and engineer at the Yokohama Rehabilitation Center.

A robot like HSR is also ideal to replace service dogs, which go through special training to help people with various disabilities, including those who use wheelchairs, have balance issues or may be prone to seizures, he said.

Toyota came up with the basic concept model for HSR in 2012.

The revamped model, announced this month, is ready to enter universities, research facilities and businesses from next year, in partnerships to develop more applications, so the robot can enter homes as quickly as possible.

TECH Q & A

Over-the-air TV for PC may be over

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: My wife and I "cut the cable" over a year ago and have been pretty satisfied using Windows Media Center, (which allows a user to watch and record TV programs on a PC equipped with an internal or attached TV tuner). But recently the program guide stopped downloading and I can't get it back. I've read online that this has happened to many others. What can I do?—Michael Kehoe, Minneapolis

A: There's a fix for your problem, but the future of the Media Center software is in doubt.

Some Media Center users experienced an interruption in TV guide updates in late July because Microsoft changed the way it encoded the guide data. For a workaround solution that involves temporarily turning off the Windows Media Center or resetting the TV tuner, see tinyurl.com/os9by7h.

On Windows Vista and Windows 7, guide updates sometimes don't work if the PC is set to download them automatically. Causes can include a bad Internet connection, a server problem or a lack of new guide information. So switch to manual guide updates. For Windows Vista see tinyurl.com/ppn7y4c and click "To change the download method": for Windows 7 see tinyurl.com/ppc2oy8 and read the "To change settings" section.

But the future of the Windows Media Center software is questionable. It was first introduced in 2002, long before TV programs could be streamed from the Internet. In the age of streaming, Media Center's over-the-air TV reception isn't widely used, Microsoft says.

As a result it isn't included in Windows 10, which debuts at the end of July (see tinyurl.com/kl7yvge). Media Center already had ceased to be free with Windows 8.1. To get it, you had to download additional software that could cost up $100 (see tinyurl.com/ct9l3qh). It's unclear how long Microsoft will continue providing TV guide updates for Media Center on earlier versions of Windows.

Q: I purchased a new Dell laptop and put it in my upstairs office. Unlike the Dell laptop I had before, this one has trouble getting an adequate Wi-Fi signal from my wireless router that's located downstairs, only 30 feet away. The Wi-Fi signal is apparently weakened by passing through the walls and floor, and at best I'm getting about one-fourth the speed upstairs that I get downstairs. What can I do? (I can't run cable from the router downstairs to the PC upstairs.)—Greg Haupt, Minneapolis

A: A home's construction and building materials can drastically affect a Wi-Fi signal's strength as it passes through walls and ceilings. But because your previous Dell PC was able to receive a strong Wi-Fi signal upstairs, I think the new PC has a less-capable built-in Wi-Fi antenna.

Add an external USB Wi-Fi adapter ($10 and up), which probably will have a better antenna. For an overview of the adapters, see tinyurl.com/nwtha4e.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune*. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Life & Style

2015 Miss Marianas Jian Joyner with Skydive Saipan Instructor Jon Crammer while skydiving earlier this month. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A birthday gift of peace

Plummeting to earth while skydiving with Skydive Saipan recently, 2015 Miss Marianas Jian Joyner was startled by the images that filled her mind.

As the air hit her face and body in the controlled freefall with instructor Jon Crammer, she felt a rush of an expanded, freer spirit and a personal emotional release that comes with being 14,000 feet above it all.

"What flashed before my eyes in the terror of falling was not my whole life. Surprisingly, I saw images of things that had happened in the lives of my mother, grandmother, and grandfather. Each image was about the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, 70 years ago," said Joyner.

Two atomic bombs were flown by the U.S. military from Tinian and dropped on the two cities on Aug. 6 and Aug. 9, 1945, and brought the end of World War II.

"I wondered what flashed before my grandmother's innocent, little girl's eyes in Japan on those fateful days when she was told that it was the bombs falling, and about the rising, spectacular mushrooms, and the violent shaking of her island. I wondered what she was told about the then-relationship between Japan and the Marianas," said Jian.

This revelation struck a cord in Joyner's mother, Yasuko, as she was born on Aug. 6 and as a child, she learned to associate the celebration of her birthday with the national ringing of bells in Japan to recognize each anniversary of the Hiroshima devastation.

The connection was too overwhelming. This Sunday, Jian is celebrating her birthday, while Yasuko follows on the 6th and on Aug. 10 is the 17th death anniversary of her grandfather, Masakazu Harada. Her grandmother, Toyoko Harada, still lives in Tokyo.

"How she thought of her grandparents at this time and made this connection was important to me. I really thought what a great opportunity to share this and help further develop our relationship between our islands and Japan," said Yasuko.

Born in the small prefecture of Aomori, Masakazu moved to Tokyo to study at the university and met Toyoko, who was also born in a small town of Gunma. Together, they built a family packaging company.

When Yasuko decided to move to Saipan to work at Kaizue's Boutique in the 1990s, she did not imagine her one-year stay would turn into over 20 years of marriage to an American, Dr. John Joyner, with whom she has two children, Jian and Jehn.

"As second-generation Japanese, I did not make the immediate historic connection of the islands to Japan—to me, it was a nice place to work," she laughs.

Every summer, Yasuko would take the children to visit their grandparents and the closeness of the family grew despite being an ocean apart.

"I recall how earnestly my grandfather prayed to delay his cancer and let him live a few more years. He wanted to teach his two Japanese-American grandchildren, me and my brother Jehn, about peace in the world," said Jian.

"Now that I know what skydiving is all about, I would like to have taken my *ojiichan* skydiving. He would have found peace in that great view—and the being above it all," she said.

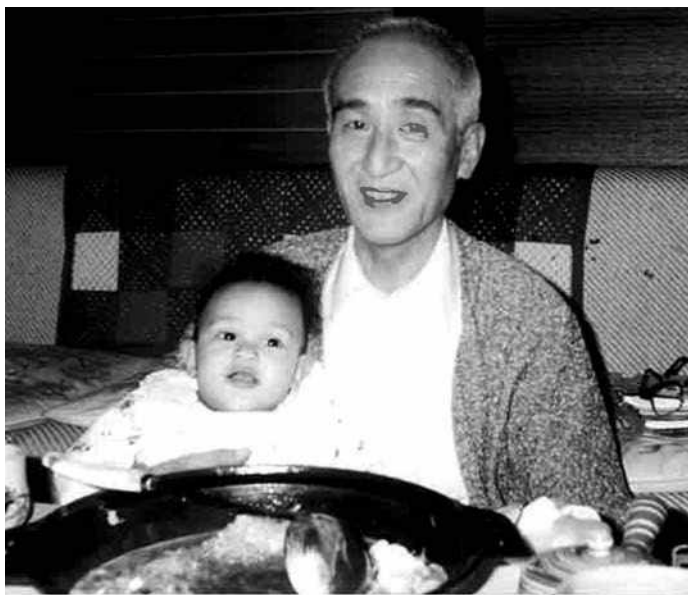
As a third-generation Japanese-American and as 2015 Miss Marianas, Jian has decided to make this connection and revelation her platform as the islands' ambassador for the rest of the year.

As she celebrates her birthday, her gift to the islands, to Japan, and to the rest of the world is to share the gratefulness and importance of peace.

"After seeing and hearing stories of what our grandparents and their parents went through, we are so fortunate to live in a time of peace and we have to work constantly to ensure that we never forget the horrors of war," said the young queen.

"My skydive flash-before-my-eyes experience helped me to see that, perhaps, I am destined, along with international supporters of peace in the world, not only to strengthen the relationship between the Marianas and Japan, but also reach out to all in helping to promote peace and goodwill locally and globally," she said.

This November, Jian will be competing in the 2015 Miss International Pageant in Tokyo, Japan. ***(Stellar Marianas)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2015 Miss Marianas Jian Joyner with her grandfather, Masakazu Harada.

2015 Miss Marianas Jian Joyner, right, and her brother Jehn with their grandmother, Toyoko Harada, during one of their summer visits in Tokyo, Japan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2015 Miss Marianas Jian Joyner joins her mother, Yasuko, for a photo yesterday. Jian will be celebrating her birthday this Sunday and her mother will be celebrating her birthday next Thursday. STELLAR MARIANAS

Stallone puts 'Rocky,' Rambo' memorabilia up for auction

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sylvester Stallone is parting with memorabilia from the "Rocky" and "Rambo" movies, but he's keeping the two characters alive onscreen.

The 69-year-old entertainer announced Thursday that he'll put hundreds of props and costumes from his 40-year career up for auction in October, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting military charities. Some of the items Stallone has agreed to sell include Rambo's Army jacket and Rocky's gloves, robe and boxing trunks.

Stallone isn't saying goodbye to the characters. Instead, he's set to become Rocky Balboa again onscreen in "Creed" this fall and is working on another "Rambo" installment.

Stallone said today's fascination with cinematic superheroes leaves little room for the "lone wolf" or "man against the odds" characters he likes to play.

"That's kind of why I'm still around, because I embrace that and it's become kind of a rarity and there's not many of us left," he said in a recent interview. "Will that come around again? I don't think so. Not in its purest form... So I embrace it and that's why I want to continue to do it until my body explodes."

AP

In this May 18, 2014, file photo, Sylvester Stallone arrives for "The Expendables 3" party at the 67th international film festival, Cannes, southern France.

First up is "Creed," by writer-director Ryan Coogler. Stallone is Rocky, but this time he's coach to a young star boxer played by Michael B. Jordan.

"By no means is this a 'Rocky 7,'" Stallone said. "This is a journey for Michael B. Jordan, who is brilliant in the movie, and Ryan Coogler, (for whom) this is a very personal film."

When Coogler first approached Stallone about the film, he declined, saying he felt Rocky had "run his course."

After making "Fruitvale Station," the filmmaker returned to discuss the role again.

"I've never seen someone who was so persistent," Stallone said. He ought to know, after holding out to play the titular character in his breakthrough script, "Rocky," back in 1976.

At work now on a screenplay for a new "Rambo" film, Stallone admitted, "It really is not fun."

He still thinks the character is compelling—"Where Rocky is the height of optimism, this guy is the height of pessimism," he said—but finds writing more challenging than any other artistic discipline.

"I'm torn because the last one was so satisfying and hit all the buttons," he said. "The idea is: How do you top that? Or do you try to top that?"

Shakira and Pique may have another athlete in the family

MIAMI (AP)—Shakira and pro soccer player Gerard Pique may have another athlete in the family.

On Wednesday, Shakira, 38, posted a video to Twitter and Facebook of the couple's youngest child, Sasha, who was born in January, in which she appears holding her son in front of a soccer ball.

"Kick," the Colombian star says repeatedly to the baby boy, who raises his leg and succeeds on the first try.

The 12-second video racked up nearly 2 million views on Facebook in an hour.

The couple's first child, Milan, a boy, was born in January 2013.

Shakira, who also is a coach on NBC's "The Voice," last year launched a line of baby toys and a Web series for moms.

AP

In this April 18, 2015 file photo, Colombian singer Shakira holds her son Sasha prior to a Spanish La Liga soccer match between FC Barcelona and Valencia at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain. On Wednesday, July 29, Shakira posted on Twitter and Facebook a video titled "Happy 6 months Sasha!" in which she appears holding Sasha in front of a soccer ball.

Mia Farrow faces Twitter backlash for lion dentist's address

NEW YORK (AP)—Mia Farrow took some Twitter heat Wednesday for joining other angry social media posters and blasting out the business address of the dentist who killed the beloved lion Cecil in Zimbabwe.

Some apparently thought the actress had listed Walter Palmer's home address in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, calling for her verified Twitter account to be suspended under the site's terms of service.

A Twitter spokesman said the company does not comment on individual accounts for privacy and security reasons. He directed The Associated Press to official Twitter rules and policies that allow wiggle room on disciplinary action when information was previously posted or displayed elsewhere on the Internet prior to being put on Twitter.

The Farrow account deleted the original missive amid the outrage questioning whether the intent was to ensure Palmer is physically tracked down by haters. But the deletion did little to calm Twitter nerves.

One tweeter clucked back at Farrow, "Maybe Donald Trump should give out your phone number," referring to Trump doing just that for a GOP rival, Sen. Lindsey Graham.

Another tweeted: "I hate what he did, but giving out his address isn't the way to go."

Farrow's manager did not immediately return an email Wednesday seeking comment.

John Legend to handle music for slave drama 'Underground'

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—John Legend is bringing his talents to a TV drama about Southern slaves fighting for freedom.

WGN America says Legend and his production company will be in charge of the score and soundtrack for "Underground."

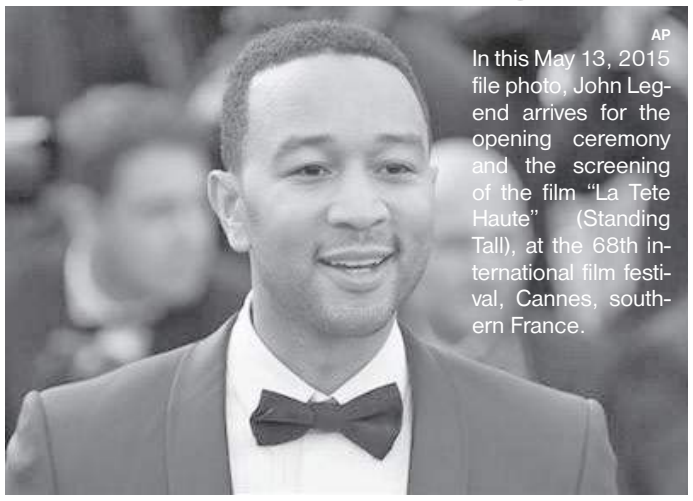
The drama is in production in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. It stars Aldis Hodge as the organizer of an escape effort by plantation slaves. Jurnee Smollett-Bell and Christopher Meloni co-star.

WGN America told a Television Critics Association meeting Wednesday that Legend's company will also serve as an executive producer for the drama.

In a statement, Legend says he believes the story of people brave enough to risk everything for freedom will be inspirational.

He and his songwriting partner, Common, won an Oscar this year for the song "Glory" from the civil rights movie "Selma."

"Underground" will air in 2016 on WGN America.



AP

In this May 13, 2015 file photo, John Legend arrives for the opening ceremony and the screening of the film "La Tete Haute" (Standing Tall), at the 68th international film festival, Cannes, southern France.

Boyfriend reveals that his soul mate died years ago

DEAR ABBY: I have been close to my best friend for three years. A year ago we decided to date. We have a wonderful relationship on almost every level. The only issue I have is that he's reluctant to open up about his past. He is a very private person, and I know it's because of his upbringing. This has sparked many debates between us that have ended less than pleasantly.

Recently, he did open up, and when he did, he dropped a bomb. He asked me if I believed in soul mates, and I said yes. Then he told me about how in his past there was a girl he loved very much. Sadly, she died. He said he sees this girl as his soul mate, but he doesn't think it lessens any of his love for me.

This was the first time he opened up to me. Now that it has sunk in, I'm hurt. I already have self-confidence issues, and I worry that since I am not her, I'm not enough. I can't live up to a dead woman.

I always thought I could change his closed ways, but now, knowing the cause, I fear there is nothing I can do to help him. Maybe he's just too messed up for me. I don't know what to do. Can someone have two soul mates?

NOT HIS SOUL MATE

DEAR NOT HIS SOUL MATE: Please do not allow your self-confidence issues to ruin your relationship, because from where I sit, it appears you're looking for a way to push this man away. So what if he had a romance that ended tragically? She's dead—gone! And you're very much alive. Stop competing with her.

If there is one thing I have learned, it is that we cannot change other people. He doesn't need your help; he needs someone who will accept him the way he is and love him for it.

DEAR ABBY: I am the treasurer for my high school's upcoming 50th reunion. My senior class was large—more than 550 students. My problem is, 280 students have not responded to our monthly emails or newsletters.

It takes a lot of time and effort to put on a reunion. We have been working on it for two years. I realize some classmates hated their senior year. Not all of us had a perfect time. But would you remind people that a simple yes or no works well?

Frankly, I don't know why anyone would say no, unless medical or financial issues prevented them from attending. I don't look like I did at 18, and neither does anyone else. The clique clubs are gone, and the captain of the football team looks just like any other guy. Can you comment?

READY FOR THE REUNION

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR READY: Yes. There may be other reasons why some graduates don't wish to attend their high school reunion. They live far away, or there is no one they particularly want to see.

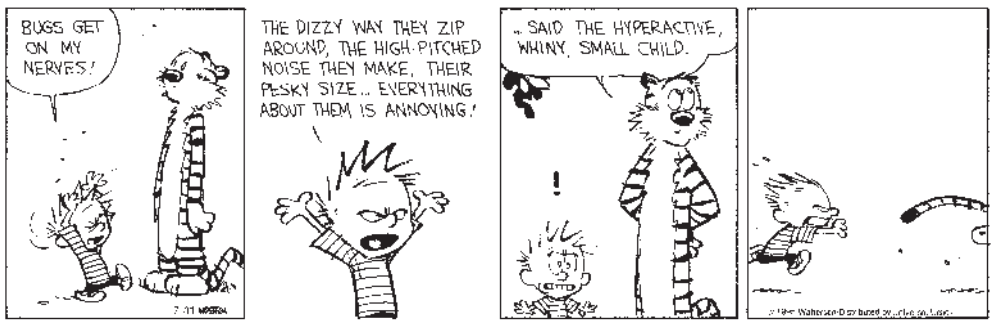
Rather than work yourself into a lather, in your next communication to the graduates, specify that only those who have responded to the invitation can be accommodated "because the committee is making arrangements for which they need an exact head count." If you don't hear from someone, do not plan on seeing him or her.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

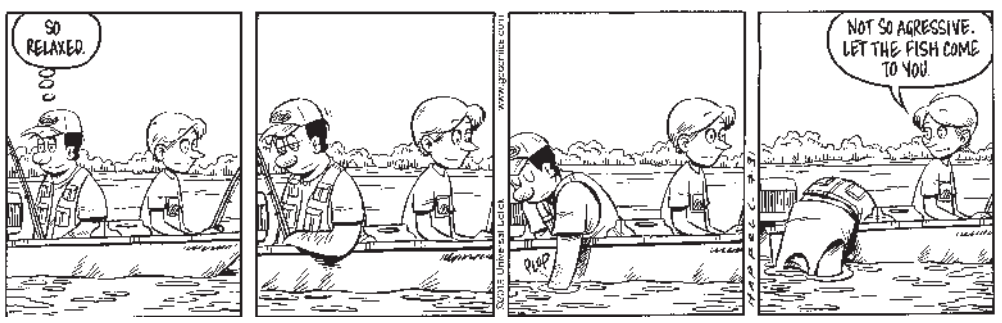

BUGS GET ON MY NERVES!
THE DIZZY WAY THEY ZIP AROUND, THE HIGH-PITCHED NOISE THEY MAKE, THEIR PESKY SIZE.. EVERYTHING ABOUT THEM IS ANNOYING!
.. SAID THE HYPERACTIVE, WHINY, SMALL CHILD.
!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

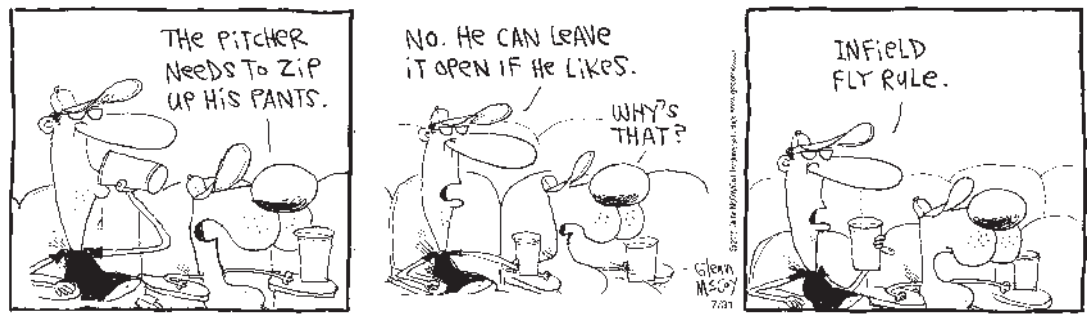
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Existed
4 Brooks or Blanc
7 Goodyear craft
12 "Hail!"
13 Dander
14 Less common
15 Perch
16 Christmas treat
18 Vanna's cohort
19 Type of pear
20 Uppity one
22 Conclusion
23 Nitwit
27 "Awesome!"
29 Sterne's Tristram
31 Massenet opera
34 Battery terminal
35 Snifter contents
37 Plant bristle
38 Pinnacle
39 Recede
41 Without help
45 Skating competition
47 "Wham!"
48 New Jersey peninsula
52 Sundial hour
53 "... bombs bursting —"
54 Clavell's "— -Pan"
55 Coffee vessel
56 Check recipient
57 Toss in
58 "Family Guy" daughter

DOWN
1 Nasty stingers
2 Birdlike
3 Squabble
4 Isinglass
5 Off the board
6 Red Square notable
7 — Mawr
8 Varnish ingredient
9 401(k) alternative
10 Chaps
11 Grand-—, N.S.
17 Mid-June honorees
21 NYC borough
23 Marriage notice
24 Lennon's lady
25 Peculiar
26 "See ya"
28 Moreover
30 Hem's partner
31 Biz deg.
32 Big name in Dadaism
33 Dundee denial
36 "Why not?"
37 Overseas
40 Flora and fauna
42 Poppy derivative
43 France's longest river
44 Due (to)
45 Combustible heap
46 Pallet
48 Try the tea
49 Literary collection
50 Unfavorable vote
51 Conk out

Solution time: 26 mins.

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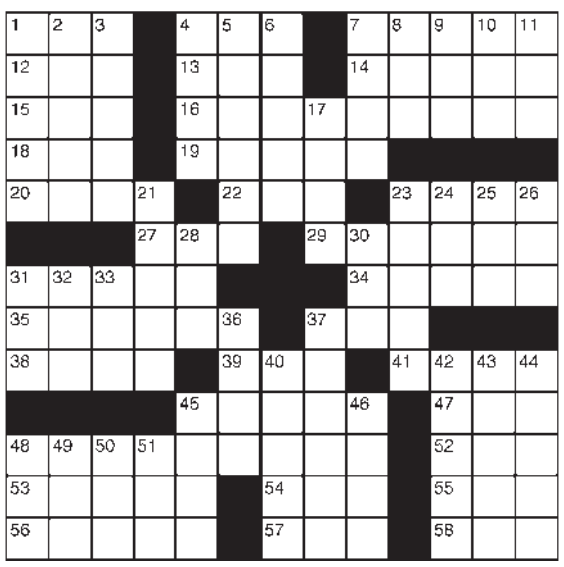
Yesterday's answer 7-31



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rico Rodriguez, 17; Zac Brown, 37; J.K. Rowling, 50; Wesley Snipes, 53. Happy Birthday: Let your emotions lead the way this year. Act on your true feelings and don't shy away from making changes to the way you live or what you do in order to reach greater satisfaction or happiness. Experience will inspire you to expand your plans and reach for bigger and better results. Partnerships will lead to good fortune. Your numbers are 4, 7, 16, 24, 30, 39, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make a difference by taking part in an event that can bring about positive changes. Your ability to visualize and express your thoughts openly will convince others of the possibilities. Your contributions will result in greater respect among your peers. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Give more thought to a plan before you begin. Take stock of what you have done in the past before blindly delving into the future. Consider what's most important to you and eliminate the projects you feel are a waste of time.✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Serious talks will help to clear the air and put you one step closer to getting what you want. By making the people in your life who count understand your concerns, you will be given the go-ahead to follow your dream. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Check out a financial trend. What you discover will help you make better choices when it comes to investing your money. Knowledge will be the key when it comes to decisions that have long-term effects. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Emotions will flare up if you become overly exuberant. Settle down and use your energy wisely. It's what you do for others that will make the biggest impact on those around you. Listen to complaints and find solutions. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Stay focused on whatever you are doing. Having a practical attitude and an ability to adapt will help bring you the success and recognition you are looking for. Set your sights high and reach for the stars. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Help those less fortunate than you and you will in turn help yourself. Taking part in an event will open a window of opportunity to make your voice heard and attract positive attention. Love and romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a back seat and observe what's going on around you. It will be easier for you to accomplish the creative tasks that you can do on your own. Physical exertion will help ease your stress and keep you out of trouble. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't hesitate when time is of the essence. It's up to you to get things done, finish what you start and make plans to move forward. Short trips and home improvements will lead to valuable information and greater happiness. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't get angry with others when you should be the one making adjustments. Wasting time trying to please everyone will keep you from making progress. Do what needs to be done and keep moving. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Excitement, adventure and plenty of change is heading your way. Embrace what life has to offer and share your good fortune with the ones you love. Opportunities are all around you, and with a little ingenuity, you will succeed. Romance is encouraged.✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Try not to mislead someone. Expressing your thoughts in a colorful manner will draw attention, but if you cannot live up to the expectations you set, you will not only disappoint yourself, but also those who believe in you. 3 stars Birthday Baby: You are curious, innovative and unique. You are respectful and popular.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			2					4
	5					9		3
							6	
		8		5			4	9
	9			7			8	
3	1			4		2		
	2							
4		6					7	
7					8			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	9	1	5	8	6	3	2	4
4	6	3	7	9	2	8	5	1
2	8	5	3	1	4	9	6	7
9	4	8	2	7	1	6	3	5
5	1	2	6	3	9	4	7	8
6	3	7	8	4	5	1	9	2
1	5	4	9	6	7	2	8	3
3	2	9	1	5	8	7	4	6
8	7	6	4	2	3	5	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/30

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SPINAL CORD RESEARCH Solution: 6 letters

B	R	Y	W	S	C	E	T	N	E	M	E	V	O	M
S	A	I	R	H	E	E	T	N	I	K	S	S	O	M
N	C	C	A	O	I	V	R	A	M	E	H	T	(N)	U
O	I	I	K	P	S	T	E	V	V	U	O	E	(I)	S
R	C	A	E	B	E	N	E	R	I	R	L	M	(A)	C
U	A	C	R	N	O	R	E	C	X	C	E	O	(P)	L
E	R	U	C	B	T	N	L	S	E	Y	A	N	C	E
N	O	T	S	E	O	I	E	U	S	L	C	L	N	C
O	H	E	B	I	N	R	S	E	M	G	L	C	C	I
I	T	R	S	I	U	T	S	T	N	B	U	S	O	R
T	A	E	C	T	R	L	R	A	S	I	A	R	N	C
C	L	A	C	A	U	T	R	A	I	L	P	R	D	U
N	L	A	U	P	T	U	A	G	L	E	S	S	U	I
U	R	M	M	E	D	I	C	A	L	I	M	B	I	T
F	A	I	N	J	U	R	Y	P	A	R	E	H	T	S

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Acute, Backbone, Brain, Cells, Central, Cervical, Circuits, Clinical, Coccyx, Column, Conduit, Drugs, Dura, Fracture, Function, Heal, Impulses, Injury, Innervate, Lesion, Limb, Lumbar, Medical, Motor, Movement, Muscle, Nerves, Neurons, Pain, Repair, Scientists, Sensory, Sever, Skin, Spine, Stem, Therapy, Thoracic, Trail, Trauma, Vertebra, White

Yesterday's Answer: Land

The **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #2** is here! Purchase online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Lie in wait

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

wafibit

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LEASE ASSIGNMENT
Call Kenny at 287-8175
GO SEE! Beautiful 1,139 sq. m. corner lot, Texas Rd & Chalan Hagoi St., CK
150ft from the Mt. Carmel Church.

YUEYANG INTERNATIONAL DBA
FISHERMAN'S WHARF SEAFOODS RESTAURANT

IMMEDIATE HIRING

(1) Executive Chef • (1) Cook (Chinese Cuisine)
(3) Waitress/Waiter • (1) Bartender

Salary will commensurate to experience and qualifications. Must have work related experience, U.S. qualified workers preferred, but not required. Interested applicants, please call 323-0362 or 783-0309 and look for Marj or Cindy or apply in person at Lower Base, across CTSI Logistic Bldg.

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CASH FOR SCRAP METAL
WE BUY:
• STAINLESS STEEL • ALUMINUM CANS • SCRAP PARTS
• USED BATTERIES • HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES • JUNK CARS

Tel: 670-323-0362 (Lower Base)

Dream Plan Action Corporation
dba DPA Car Mart
in San Antonio, Saipan
is seeking for

(1) Auto Mechanic
with at least one year experience

Interested applicants may personally drop your resumé or email to us @ dpacarmart@gmail.com
287-8688 / 235-8688

Saipan Community School
Is looking for

One (1) Math and Science Teacher

for our Jr. High students

He/She MUST have the following requirements:
- Bachelor's degree in Education
- Teaching certificate and teaching Math & Science experience
- US citizen or permanent resident
- Share equal Christian Faith
- Must be willing to start immediately if hired

Bring your resume to SCS office in Susupe. No phone call please.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-040

Opening Date: Friday, July 31, 2015
Closing Date:Friday, August 14, 2015

Trades Assistant
(Tinian Water Section)

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Deputy Director Tinian or his/her designee. Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools. Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues. Responds to trouble calls as needed. Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site. Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used. Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete. Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports. Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities. Performing daily well and pump station facility maintenance, cleaning and monitoring; Assisting plumbing and chlorine maintenance crew; Utilizing digging equipment for locating and repairing leaks; Repairing and securing pressure reducer valves, main valves, service lines and laterals, and booster pumps; Assisting with meter installation and repair; Collecting water samples. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : Water Division, Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : $16,742.00 per annum.
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.
POSITION(S) : One (1)

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS. Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

EMPLOYMENT

1 Butcher: $6.05/hr. High school diploma and at least 3 years' experience required. Email resume to dolim@hanmisaipan.com.

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(1) Administrative Officer – Must have 3-5 years' experience as administrative officer plus 3-4 years' experience as administrative assistant. Must have background in accounting, computer literate especially accounting software such as Peachtree Accounting, Microsoft Excel and Word. Must know how to read and review reports and financial statements. Must know how to prepare CW-1 applications, taxes, licenses and permit applications. Must have reliable transportation and valid driver's license. Applicants must mail resume with valid identification, police clearance and previous employment certification to M & E Enterprises Inc. Saipan, P.O. Box 505208 CK, Saipan, MP 96950. No phone calls please.

SERVICES

Russian Translation Services. Good rates and high quality. Tel: (670) 989-3927. Email: leila.francisco88@gmail.com

UNDERWATER ADVENTURES, LLC.
Vacancy Announcement
1-General Manager
Salary $1800 - $2500 p/m. 2 years management experience. Professional Scuba Diving Instructor License preferred. Proficient in English & Japanese (reading, writing, speaking)

Interested U.S. applicants, may email resume to edwardcalvo@gmail.com

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$550/month

LNH Apartments
(Lower Navy Hill)
Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. EPA Solar Water Heater.
$450/month

Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
***Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded**

FEATURES:
- **Fully Furnished**
- **Back-up Generator**
- **Air-conditioning in all rooms**
- **FREE WiFi**
- **Laundry Area**
- **Nighttime Security**
- **Ample Parking**
- **24hr water**

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You're looking at it!
CALL235-NEWS

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. **15-039**

Opening Date: **July 21, 2015**
Closing Date: **August 3, 2015**

Human Resource Manager

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee. Supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Manages the functions of assigned unit/designated program, which includes planning, coordinating, administering, and evaluating programs, projects, processes, procedures, systems, standards, and/or services. Ensures compliance with organizational and Federal, Commonwealth, and local laws, regulations, codes, and/or standards. Serves as a liaison with internal departments, officials, agencies, partners, contractors and other external organizations, groups and representatives. Serves as a representative at a variety of meetings, public events, on committees, and/or other related events regarding services, programs, or projects. Researches, reviews, interprets, analyzes and prepares a variety of information, data, and reports; provides quality control and assurance of assigned functions and services; recommends and implements policies and procedures to improve operational effectiveness and provide enhancements to services or programs. Manages assigned budget and provides input to the annual budget development process. Prepares cost estimates and budget recommendations. Monitors, administers and controls budget allocation and authorizes expenditures. Assists in planning, developing, recommending and implementing goals, objectives, policies, procedures and standards. Coordinates operational and program efforts in alignment with goals and objectives of assigned area of responsibility. Planning, overseeing and providing human resources operations, support and activities; Providing coaching and recommendations to management and staff regarding personnel needs and issues; Working with upper management and legal counsel regarding disciplinary actions; providing guidance and support related to employment processes and programs. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION: Administration, **Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $56,439.00 per annum to $76,192.00 per annum.
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.
POSITION(S): One (1)

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in a directly related field and 5 years of professional experience in the assigned filed including 2 years of leadership experience. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Managerial principles, practices and techniques; Principles, practices, methods and techniques of assigned operational area or functions; Budgeting principles; contract administration principles; Customer service principles; Modern office equipment; Modern office technology. Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Managing, monitoring, training and evaluating staff; Prioritizing, coordinating, allocating resources and assigning work; Planning, organizing and implementing programs and services; Establishing goals, objectives and standards; Recommending, developing and implementing policies and procedures; Providing technical review, expertise and oversight related to assigned area; Monitoring and implementing quality, compliance and/or safety procedures and processes; Preparing contract documents; Providing contract administration; Researching and analyzing information; Resolving problems and conflict; Developing budget and monitoring compliance; Preparing reports, presentations and other related materials; Delivering presentations and training; Overseeing customer service delivery; Serving as a liaison and technical representative of assigned area; Utilizing a computer relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten DanDan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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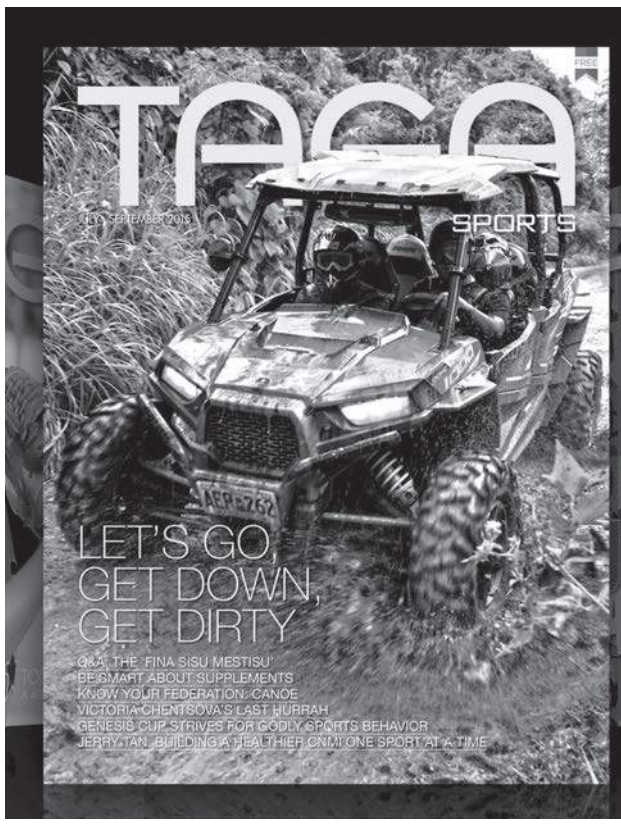
TAGA
SPORTS
LET'S GO, GET DOWN, GET DIRTY
Q&A: THE 'FINA SISU MESTISU'
BE SMART ABOUT SUPPLEMENTS
KNOW YOUR FEDERATION: CANOE
VICTORIA CHENTSOVA'S LAST HURRAH
GENESIS CUP STRIVES FOR GODLY SPORTS BEHAVIOR
JERRY TAN: BUILDING A HEALTHIER CNMI ONE SPORT AT A TIME

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Coral Ocean Golf Resort
Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Human Resources Manager
Salary Range: $11.37 to $13.46
Bachelor Degree Holder or equivalent. At least five years working experienced in Human Resources. Ability to maintain highly confidential nature of human resources work and possess the highest degree of integrity and trustworthiness. Knowledge of EEO, FLSA, FMLA, and other applicable regulations. Knowledge of principles and procedure for personnel recruitment, selection, training, compensation and benefits, payroll system, labor relations, negotiations and personnel information system. Knowledgeable in processing various working permits and visas. Computer literate, has analytical and critical thinking skills and ability to influence others and be able to manage changes. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) Housekeeping Supervisor
Salary Range: $7.00 to $8.55
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least need anywhere for a few months to one year of working with experienced employees. Knowledge of principles and process for providing customer and personal service including handling large group of arrival. Must have the ability to supervise, experience performing housekeeping duties, hardworking, leadership ability, keen observation skills, and be detail oriented. Willing to work under pressure with the specified number of rooms or duties assigned every day. Has the ability to extent flexibility that included bending, twisting and lifting. Computer literate. Able to stand prolonged period of time and must possess friendly and good manners. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) Food & Beverage Supervisor
Salary Range: $7.00 to $8.55
High School Diploma or Equivalent. At least two to three years working experience in related field and hotel industry. Must possess passion for quality and service excellence. Knowledgeable in principles, processes for providing customer and personal services, including customer needs assessment, meeting quality standard for services, evaluation of customer satisfaction. Full understanding of licensing responsibilities and environment health standards. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well-groomed at all time. Highly qualified in supervising restaurant point of sale, and must have the knowledge in supervising wait staff and peers. Must be able to stand for prolonged period of time. Computer literate. Acquired hospitality related program and speaking additional language is an asset. Must be able to acquire Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends, and holidays

(2) Golf Course Assistant Superintendent
Salary Range: $11.37 to $12.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least five or more years of work related experience in related field. Full understanding of licensing responsibilities and environmental health standards. Requires advanced knowledge of agronomy and turf grass management practices; a working knowledge of golf facility construction principles, practices and methods; and thorough understanding of the rules and strategies of the game of golf. Requires excellent oral and written communication and knowledge in the game of golf. May require current certificate of licensing as pesticide applicator. Computer literate. Must be able to work under the sun, can stand for a long period of time and can lift at least 50lbs. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) Accounting Supervisor
Salary Range: $7.00 to $8.55
Have at least 3 to 5 years work related experience in Hotel/Golf Course Industry or field auditing work. Have knowledge of economics and accounting principles and practices, A/P, A/R, G/L, bank analysis and reporting of financial data. Excellent in mathematical and communications skills. Ability to maintain highly confidential nature of accounting works and possess professionalism with good manners and right conducts. Knowledge in different accounting software application, must know how to operate Peachtree program and must be computer literate. Must be able to work under pressure, and meet deadlines. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) Maintenance Supervisor
Salary Range: $7.00 to $8.55
At least three years of work related experience. Engineering Degree or related courses is an asset. Knowledge in selecting, maintaining, and monitoring daily operations of power plant, generators, water pumps, plumbing, electrical, welding, heating, cooling, ventilation, furnishing, fixtures, painting, carpentry, troubleshooting, and mechanical equipment. Must be able to work under the sun, can stand for prolonged period of time. Computer literate and possess email communication skills. Knowledge in all safety and hazardous standard. Has the ability to exert flexibility that includes bending, twisting, and lifting at least 50lbs.Knowledge of diesel and gasoline equipment operations. Highly qualified in supervising subordinates and possesses leadership. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(10) Greenkeepers
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma or Equivalent. At least three months of work related experience and knowledge in maintaining and monitoring daily operations of the golf courses greens. Requires advance knowledge of agronomy and turf grass management practices, handling chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides. Knowledge of safe, efficient mechanical equipment such as tractors, mowers, and driving other motorized equipment. Knowledge of diesel and gasoline equipment operations. Ability to use hand and power tools and equipment, ability to follow oral and written directions. Must be able to work under the sun and can stand for a prolonged period of time and capable of lifting at least 50lbs. Pesticide applicator license preferred, but not required. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings and holidays.

(3) Bartender
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least one year working experience as a Bartender. Knowledge in different variety of cocktails, tropical, alcoholic or non-alcoholic drinks. Must be able to create and possess broad ideas for mixing, creating and serving drinks. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well-groomed at all time. A "People Person", acquired hospitality related program and speaking additional languages is preferred, but not required. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of customer. Computer literate. Able to stand for a prolonged period of time. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings and holidays.

(3)Cook (International Cuisine)
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. Six months to a year of work related experience. Culinary Degree Holder preferred, but not required. Excellent interpersonal skills; neat and well-groomed at all times. Able to stand for a prolonged period of time. Full understanding of licensing responsibilities and environmental health standards. Highly qualified in preparing variety of food and knowledgeable in processing and food production of International Cuisine, like salad, appetizers, dessert and main entrées. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) Front Desk Clerk (Golf)
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least six months to a year of related work experience in the hotel and golf course industry. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of arrivals. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well-groomed at all times. Acquired hospitality program and be able to speak additional languages is preferred but not required. Physically capable to lift at least 50lbs and have a valid CNMI driver's license. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time, a "People Person" and must possess a friendly and good manners. Knowledge in the game of golf preferred but not required. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(2) Waiter/Waitress
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma one equivalent. At least three months of work related experience. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well-groomed at all times. A "People Person", acquired hospitality related program and speaking additional languages preferred but not required. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of customers. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days evening, weekends and holidays.

(2) Lifeguard
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least for a few months to a year of related work experienced. First Aide and SPR Certified, swimmer or a certified lifeguard. She /he must be familiar with the safe handling of pool chemicals and the process to clean and sanitize the area. Possess a friendly, good moral character and good communications skills. Fit to work under the sun and willing to work in flexible shifts, in all weather conditions, days, evening, weekends and holidays. Company may require swimming tests. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(2) Golf Course Starter
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least few months of related work experienced. Knowledge of principle and processes for providing excellent personal and guest service skills. Be able to speak other language but not required. Must be able to work under the sun. Be able to stand prolonged period of time and capable for lifting at least 50lbs. Must be able to acquire driver's license. Possess knowledgeable in the rules of golf game. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

Food & Beverage Cashier (2-Korean Speaking, 2-Chinese Speaking, 2-Japanese Speaking)
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least few months experienced in the related field. Experienced working in a restaurant navigating point of sale system is a plus. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of arrivals in the restaurant. Acquired hospitality related program and speaking additional languages preferred but not required. Computer literate. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, a "People Person", professional, neat and well-groomed at all times. Must be able to speak and understand English language and fluent in Chinese language. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, weekends and holidays.

Front Desk Clerk (2-Korean Speaking, 2-Chinese Speaking, 2-Japanese Speaking)
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least six months to a year of related work experience in the hotel and golf course industry. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of arrivals. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well-groomed at all times. Acquired hospitality related program is an asset but not required. A "People Person", be able to speak additional languages is preferred but not required. Physically capable to lift at least 50lbs and have a valid CNMI driver's license, be able to stand for prolonged period of time and must possess a friendly and good manners. Knowledge in the game of golf preferred but not required. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(9) General Maintenance
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.50
High School Diploma equivalent. One or more years of work related experienced. Engineering Degree or related courses is an asset but not required. Knowledge in keeping machines, mechanical equipment or other structure of an establishment in repair. Experience involving generators, water pumps, irrigation, deepwell, pipe fitting, insulating, repairing electrical or mechanical equipment, building repair that may include carpentry, plumbing, masonry and painting task. Must be able to work under the sun and can stand for prolonged period of time and physically can lift at least 50lbs. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(1) Accounting Clerk
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least three months working experienced in the related field. Knowledge in mathematical and communication skills is preferred. Possess the ability to maintain highly confidential nature of accounting works and possess professionalism with good manners. Computer literate and email communication awareness. Must be able to work under pressure and has the ability to work as a team, possess typing skills and attention to detail. Must have a valid driver's license. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

Room Division Manager
Salary Range : $11.37 to 13.46
Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality or Business Management or equivalent. At least five years working excperience management level in an hotel industry. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer, personal services and interpret financial data like budgets and expense reports, requiring computer skills, mathematics, and basic accounting. Speaking additional language like Japanese, Chinese and Korean language is an advantage. Knowledge in hotel system Fidelio or Opera is preferred but not required. Experienced handling large group of arrivals. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well groomed at all times. Acquired hospitality related program is an asset. A "People Person". Must be able to stand for a prolonged period of time. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(1) Night Auditor
Salary Range : 8.55 to 10.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least two to three years working excperienced, graveyard schedule, night audit in the hotel industry. Excellent customer service skills. Speaking additional language like Japanese, Chinese and Korean language is an advantage. Knowledge in hotel system Fidelio or Opera is preferred but not required. Experienced handling large group of arrivals. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well groomed at all times. Acquired hospitality related program is an asset but not required. A "People Person", be able to speak additional languages (Japanese, Chinese & Korean Language) is an advantage. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

Golf Operation Manager
Salary Range : $11.37 to 13.46
Bachelor's Degree Business Management or equivalent. At least five years working excperience management level in the capacity of Manager in related operation. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer, personal services and interpret financial data like budgets and expense reports, requiring computer skills, mathematics, and basic accounting. Full understanding of licensing responsibilities and environmental health standards. Requires advanced knowledge of agronomy and turf grass management practices; a working knowledge of golf facility construction principles, practices and methods; and a thorough understanding of the rules and strategies of the game of golf. Requires excellent oral and written communication and knowledge in the game of golf. May require current certificate or licensing as pesticide applicator. Must be able to work under the sun, can stand for prolonged period of time and can lift at least 50lbs . Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

Suwaso Corporation would like to invite all qualified US workers to send their resume/application for to hr.copspn@gmail.com or submit it to Coral Ocean Gold Resort, Human Resources Department not later than August 3, 2015 @ 1:00 pm. Include at least two recommendation letter. No phone calls please.

Brady fights on, files lawsuit to stop suspension

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Tom Brady took the fight over his "Deflategate" suspension to social media and federal court Wednesday, and New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft backed the three-time Super Bowl MVP, saying "I was wrong to put my faith in the league."

One day after NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell rejected Brady's appeal, the star quarterback posted a 507-word statement on Facebook with his firmest denial yet, writing: "I did nothing wrong." Kraft followed with an unscheduled address to the media gathered at Gillette Stadium for the opening of training camp and the team's defense of its fourth Super Bowl championship.

"It is completely incomprehensible to me that the league continues to take steps to disparage one of its all-time great players, and a man for whom I have the utmost respect," the Patriots owner said. "I have come to the conclusion that this was never about doing what was fair and just."

Just before the courts closed in Minnesota, the NFL Players Association asked the court to overturn Brady's four-game suspension—or at least put it on hold until the case can be heard. The union asked the court to throw out the suspension before Sept. 4; that would keep Brady from missing any practices before the Patriots' Sept. 10 season-opener against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

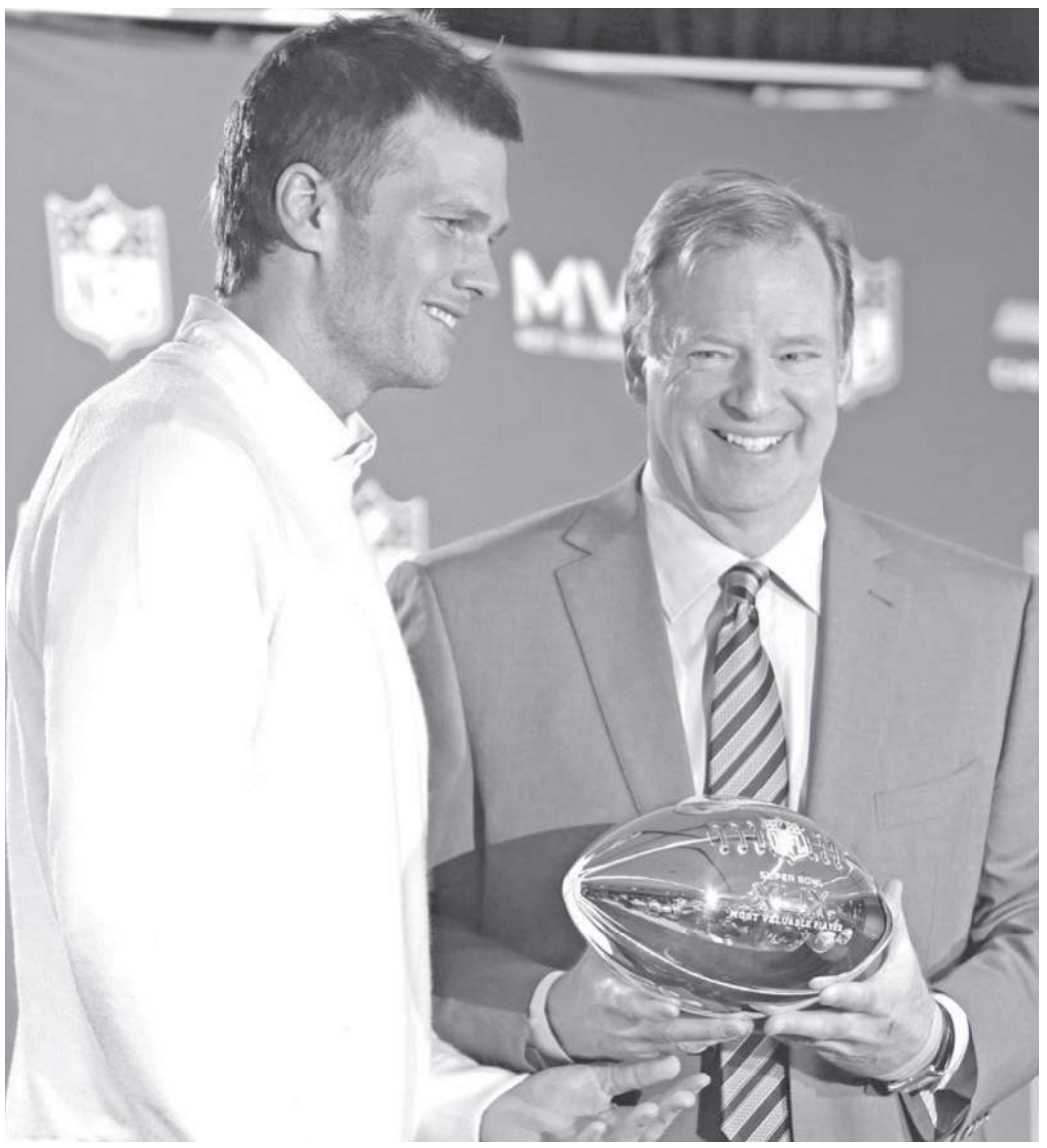
"We need to free him up for that first week," union attorney Jeffrey Kessler told The Associated Press. "We don't believe this discipline can ever be sustained."

The lawsuit argues that the NFL made up its rules as it went along and misapplied the ones that were already on the books. In an interview with the AP, Kessler called it "offensive" that the league accused Brady of destroying his cellphone to obstruct the investigation, a claim NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell made in upholding the suspension on Tuesday.

"We believe they highlighted this issue solely to inflame the public, to suggest there is some secret information being withheld, and that's wrong," Kessler told the AP. "It's an unfair character assassination of a player who has done nothing but be a model citizen for this league."

Brady defended the cellphone swap on Facebook.

"To suggest that I destroyed a phone to avoid giving the NFL information it requested is completely wrong," he said. "There is no `smoking gun' and this controversy is manufactured to distract from the fact they have zero evidence of wrongdoing."



AP

In this Feb. 2, 2015, file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, left, poses with NFL Commissioner Rodger Goodell during a news conference where Brady was presented the Super Bowl MVP in Phoenix, Ariz.

Brady was suspended four games and the Patriots were docked $1 million and two draft picks in May for what the league found was a scheme to provide improperly inflated footballs for the AFC championship game against the Indianapolis Colts. Investigator Ted Wells zeroed in on two equipment managers - one who called himself "The Deflator" - and said Brady was "at least generally aware" of the illegal deflation scheme.

Kraft said the Patriots did nothing wrong, but the team fired the two equipment managers. He said he didn't fight the team's penalty because he thought the league would go easy on the star quarterback.

Now, he said, he regrets his decision.

"I truly believe that what I did in May ... would make it much easier for the league to exonerate Tom Brady. Unfortunately, I was wrong," Kraft said, apologizing to the team's fans and to Brady. "Six months removed from the AFC championship game, the league still has no hard evidence of anybody doing anything to tamper with the PSI levels of footballs."

Kraft said the team turned over every cellphone not belonging to a player - including the one belonging to coach Bill Belichick. The powerful owner, who had been one of Goodell's most loyal allies, said the league's claim that Brady trashed his phone to obstruct the investigation was just the latest in a series of statements and leaks that "intentionally implied nefarious behavior" where there was none.

"Tom Brady is a person of great integrity and is a great ambassador of the game, both on and off the field," Kraft said.

Brady, who had earlier denied cheating accusations with the tepid "I don't think so," more forcefully defended himself in the Facebook post, claiming he cooperated with the investigation except where doing so would have set a bad precedent for his union brethren.

Brady said he replaced his broken phone only after his lawyers told league investigators they couldn't have it. "Most importantly, I have never written, texted, emailed to anybody at any time, anything related to football air pressure before this issue was raised at the AFC Championship game in January," he wrote.

The post was liked by 51,000 people - including his wife, supermodel Gisele Bundchen - in the first 30 minutes after it was posted on Facebook. By the time the lawsuit was filed at 6 p.m. Boston time, the number was 250,000.

Patriots special teams captain Matthew Slater said Brady's teammates support him.

"The guys in this locker room, we feel we are part of a family," he said. "Good or bad things happen in life, you stick with your family."

Belichick had been scheduled to speak to the media first on Wednesday morning, but Kraft took the podium instead. The coach, as is his practice, declined to comment on the scandal.

"Nothing really to talk about there," he said. "We're going to take it day to day, just like we always do."

Adrian Peterson back in pads and moving forward with Vikings

MANKATO, Minn. (AP)— Adrian Peterson burst through the line of scrimmage and veered toward the sideline as he headed up the field.

Safety Robert Blanton had the Minnesota Vikings running back in his sights and eased off the throttle as he went in to "thud" Peterson, looking to deliver a cordial bump during the team's first training camp practice with players in pads. To Blanton's surprise, Peterson lowered his shoulder and delivered a jolt to the fourth-year defensive back.

Most veterans dread the early days of camp and the first few hits that open the door to six months filled with jarring blows, aches and pains.

Not Peterson. He hadn't felt the pop of the pads for more than 10 months, an exile brought on by child abuse allegations against him. With the case settled, his punishment over, his contract situation resolved and fans welcoming him back to the field, Peterson couldn't help but be a little eager to finally get back to the business of football.

"I've been looking forward to it for a long time," said Peterson, who missed the final 15 games of last season. "It was good to get the first day down. I feel comfortable. I didn't feel sluggish or weighed down because of the pads. I felt pretty good."

Vikings owner Mark Wilf said he was only too happy to see Peterson back on the field with a smile on his face after so much drama surrounding the team and its star player.

"Obviously he's a unique talent and a good person," Wilf said. "We're happy he's here playing for us. We can't wait for the season to get going here."

There were times in the offseason that it appeared like Peterson could be parting ways with the only NFL franchise for which he has played. A perceived lack of support from some in the organization, and the criticism that was heaped upon him by many fans and media when the allegations first surfaced, had Peterson thinking that it was time to move on.

But he was still under contract and the Vikings refused to entertain the idea of trading a player they believe can resume his role as the focal point of the offense, even as he passes the 30-year-old milestone that has spelled the beginning of the end for so many running backs before him.

As a show of faith, the Vikings also restructured Peterson's contract to guarantee him $7 million next season in case of injury. It was the last in a series of efforts by the organization to smooth things over heading into a season with high expectations.

"He's had a long history here with the Vikings and the community," Wilf said. "We know what kind of person he is. That's all in the rearview mirror as far as some of that stuff goes and we're looking forward to him being a big part of our team going forward."

While Peterson occasionally had doubts about the support he had in the front office, his confidence in his teammates never wavered. Throughout the last 10 months, not one Vikings player has gone on the record to express any reservations about Peterson, which has allowed him to step right back into a leadership role on the team.

"I don't think it ever left," Peterson said about his status in the locker room. "That's the thing about the family I'm surrounded by. These guys, they've been supporting me. Such an unfortunate situation.

"But when it's family and they know you," he said, looking at a throng of media surrounding him, "some of you guys, I don't know you so I wouldn't pass judgment based off what I've heard or what I've seen if I didn't know what type of person you are. That's just the type of world we live in. These guys, they know me. They know what I'm made of."

AP

Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson (28) carries the ball during the first practice in full pads at an NFL football training camp on the campus of Minnesota State University Tuesday, July 28, 2015, in Mankato, Minn.

Tulowitzki homers and has 3 hits, Jays beat Phillies

TORONTO (AP)—Troy Tulowitzki homered and had three hits in his Blue Jays debut as Toronto beat the Philadelphia Phillies 8-2 on Wednesday night.

The five-time All-Star, who was acquired in a trade with the Colorado Rockies, went 3 for 5 with two doubles and three RBIs. He scored three times.

R.A. Dickey (5-10) allowed two runs, none earned, and seven hits in eight innings to win consecutive starts for the first time this season.

Astros 6, Angels 3

In Houston, rookie Lance McCullers pitched seven solid innings and Preston Tucker and Jon Singleton both homered to help Houston Astros to a win over Los Angeles to regain first place in the American League West.

Houston also took the first game of the series to move ahead of the Angels, who came into town leading the division.

Dodgers 10, Athletics 7

In Los Angeles, pinch-hitter Kike Hernandez delivered the go-ahead, two-run double during a five-run seventh inning, and Los Angeles rallied from a three-run deficit for a wild victory over Oakland.

Yasiel Puig hit a two-run homer on his bobblehead night for the Dodgers (57-45), who snapped their three-game losing streak and avoided falling out of first place for the first time in two months.

Padres 7, Mets 3

In New York, Justin Upton homered and drove in three runs and Yonder Alonso also connected as San Diego beat New York despite three long balls from Lucas Duda.

Duda hit the first of his home runs leading off the second to end Tyson Ross' streak of starts without allowing one at 16, a Padres record. Ross (7-8) hadn't given up a homer since April 28, a span of 100 innings.

Reds 1, Cardinals 0

In St. Louis, Jay Bruce homered in the second to back Anthony DeSclafani's seven innings of three-hit ball, and Cincinnati shut out St. Louis for the second straight night.

The Reds ended a nine-series losing streak in St. Louis and have won consecutive games at Busch Stadium for the first time since July 6 and Sept. 2, 2011. It was the first time Cincinnati won consecutive games in the same series since June 2006.

Rangers 5, Yankees

In Arlington, Texas, Colby Lewis went six innings for his 11th victory and the Texas Rangers snapped a three-game losing streak with a win over AL East-leading New York.

Adrian Beltre had two hits and scored twice for the Rangers, who won for only the second time in their last 14 home games.

Tigers 2, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Justin Verlander outlasted Chris Archer for his first win this season and Detroit avoided a three-game sweep by beating Tampa Bay.

Verlander (1-3), who retired his first 14 batters before Asdrubal Cabrera homered on an 0-1 pitch with two outs in the fifth, gave up one run, four hits and had 10 strikeouts.

Archer (9-8) lost a perfect game bid and the lead in the seventh inning. The right-hander, 0-4 over six starts since beating Toronto on June 23, allowed two unearned runs, three hits and struck out 11 in seven innings.

Nationals 7, Marlins 2

In Miami, Bryce Harper blasted two home runs into the upper deck and drove in four for Washington in a win over Miami.

Michael Taylor also homered and drove in two for Washington.

Indians 12, Royals 1

In Cleveland, Corey Kluber took a shutout into the ninth, rookie Francisco Lindor hit a three-run homer and had a career-high four RBIs, and the Indians avoided a winless homestand with a victory Kansas City.

Michael Brantley, Yan Gomes and rookie Giovanny Urshela hit solo homers for Cleveland, which had been outscored 37-10 in losing the first six games of the homestand. Michael Bourn was 4 for 5 as Cleveland had a season-high 18 hits.

Pirates 10, Twins 4

In Minneapolis, Andrew McCutchen hit a home run and turned an RBI single into race around the bases while Minnesota made two errors in a five-run sixth inning, helping Francisco Liriano and Pittsburgh beat Minnesota for a two-game sweep.

Jung Ho Kang homered for the second straight day for the Pirates, after going deep for the go-ahead run in the ninth the night before. McCutchen's two-run, two-strike, two-out drive off Ervin Santana (2-1) in the fifth inning tied the game at 3, and the Twins unraveled in the sixth.

Giants 5, Brewers 0

In San Francisco, Hunter Pence doubled in Matt Duffy to break a scoreless tie in the seventh inning and San Francisco held on to beat Milwaukee.

Pence also made two sparkling defensive plays in the outfield as the Giants bounced back from their only loss on this six-game homestand to beat the Brewers for the fifth time in six games this season.

White Sox 9, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Adam Eaton opened the game with a home run, Jose Quintana pitched 6 1/3 solid innings and Chicago beat Boston for its seventh straight win.

Eaton and Melky Cabrera both had three hits, including RBI singles. Alexei Ramirez hit a solo homer for the White Sox, who built a 6-0 lead and chased Boston starter Rick Porcello in the third inning.

Orioles 2, Braves 0

In Baltimore, Chris Tillman took a three-hitter into the ninth inning, Jonathan Schoop and J.J. Hardy homered and Baltimore beat skidding Atlanta for a three-game sweep.

Tillman (8-7) was lifted after giving up a two-out double to Cameron Maybin in the ninth. The right-hander had retired 13 straight batters to that point.

Cubs 3, Rockies 2

In Chicago, Jon Lester struck out 14, one shy of his career high and the most for a Cubs pitcher in more than a decade, leading Chicago over Colorado.

A day after he was acquired from Toronto, Jose Reyes was 1 for 3 with a walk and a stolen base in his Rockies' debut. The four-time All-Star, obtained in a trade that sent Troy Tulowitzki to Toronto, batted second and singled in his first at-bat for Colorado, then was caught stealing.

Diamondbacks 8, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Welington Castillo homered twice off Seattle ace Felix Hernandez, including a two-run shot in the first inning, and Arizona won its fifth straight.

Arizona completed its first sweep of Seattle and fifth this season thanks Castillo's two long balls. Castillo hit a two-run homer off Hernandez (12-6) as part of Arizona's four-run first inning, then added a solo shot leading off the fourth inning. He became just the sixth player to homer twice in the same game off Hernandez.

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Sources: Phillies agree to trade Cole Hamels to Texas

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—After years of trade speculation, Cole Hamels' time in Philadelphia is ending.

Two people familiar with the deal say the Phillies have agreed to trade the ace left-hander to the Texas Rangers for a package of prospects.

Both people spoke to The Associated Press late Wednesday night on condition of anonymity because the trade had not been finalized. Hamels has a limited no-trade clause but does not have to approve a deal to the Rangers.

Hamels would become the first pitcher in major league history traded during a season immediately after throwing a no-hitter—he no-hit the Chicago Cubs on Saturday at Wrigley Field.

"He's definitely a great pitcher," Rangers first baseman Mitch Moreland said after Texas beat the New York Yankees 5-2 Wednesday. "Obviously watched the no-hitter the other day, pretty impressive. He's got a long track record of great success. It will be huge for us."

The 2008 World Series MVP was an integral part of the greatest run in franchise history when the Phillies won five straight NL East titles, two pennants and one World Series from 2007-11.

"He's been here a long time, but that's baseball," Phillies catcher Carlos Ruiz said following an 8-2 loss at Toronto. "Definitely it's sad when you're around one of your teammates for a long time and then they have to go away."

AP

In this June 14, 2015, file photo, Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher Cole Hamels collects himself on the mound during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates in Pittsburgh.

The rebuilding Phillies, a big league-worst 38-64, traded All-Star closer Jonathan Papelbon to Washington on Tuesday. Both players made it clear they wanted to play for contenders.

Texas is seven games behind AL West-leading Houston and four games behind Minnesota for the AL's second wild-card spot.

There was thought the Phillies might wait to move Hamels in the offseason after recently hired executive Andy MacPhail officially replaces Pat Gillick, but general manager Ruben Amaro Jr. pulled the trigger with MacPhail's input.

Hamels was 114-90 with a 3.30 ERA in 10 seasons in Philadelphia. He went 7-4 with a 3.09 ERA in 13 postseason starts and also earned MVP honors in the `08 NLCS.

Hamels has three years remaining in a $144 million, six-year contract, a deal that includes a club option for 2019. He's owed $22.5 million per year through 2018 with a club option for 2019 at $20 million or a $6 million buyout. His option becomes guaranteed at $24 million if he throws 400 innings or more in 2017-18, including at least 200 in 2018, and isn't on the disabled list at end of 2018 with left shoulder or elbow injury.

More Phillies could be on the move before Friday's deadline to trade players without first securing waivers. Outfielders Jeff Francoeur and Ben Revere and righty Aaron Harang could help teams in the pennant race.

Philadelphia would like to deal 2006 NL MVP Ryan Howard but his contract makes it difficult. He's owed $25 million this year and next, and the team has a $23 million option for 2017 with a $10 million buyout.

Howard, Ruiz and Chase Utley are the only remaining players from Philadelphia's 2008 championship team.

SUFA softball tourney in August

The SUFA Softball Association will be holding another slow-pitch softball tournament on Aug. 22 and 23 at the Capital Hill ballfield.

Players are advised to form their teams since there will be limited slots in the two-day weekend tournament.

Cash and other in kind prizes await the top three teams. A raffle will also be held on Sunday, Aug. 23, during the finals.

Registration fee is $100 per team.

Organizers have not yet finalized the tournament format and it will depend on Saipan's unpredictable weather.

For more information, call Joe Flores at 4837848 or Tom Camacho at 285-8663. ***(Jon Perez)***

SANTOS

From Page 32

coaches here where they spend six weeks training the kids," added Santos in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune*.

Fishing, however, was the thing that the two-time Hong Kong Footballer of the Year recipient enjoyed most as he again looked forward to cast a few lines today.

"I've never tried fishing before and you can't go fishing in Hong Kong. There are not that much fish. You can fish for five hours but the biggest one you could get is this big," Santos showed the size of a fish about 5 to 6 inches.

He was a bit disappointed when Tan Holdings executive assistant Owen Ji Long Wen informed him that last weekend was the 31st Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

And like a kid inside a toy story, his eyes widened when Wen said that some of the fish caught in last weekend's fishing derby were more than 5 feet in length.

He joined one of the training sessions of the CNMI men's team yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex football field.

Looking back, Santos said the CNMI's football program, particularly the women's side, has grown rapidly since the first time he came here on Saipan.

"The last time, the CNMI women's team played great. Chelsea FC School was the defending champions but they won against our women's team. That is a huge improvement," said Santos.

That was the CNMI women's All-Star team's lone win in the Luen Thai Cup in Hong Kong as they dropped consecutive matches against South China Agricultural University Women's Football Club, 3-2, and the Singapore National Women's A Team, 2-0.

Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong coaches have been alternately coming to Saipan to help NMIFA's various grassroots development programs. Coach Tang Chi Ming is currently on island and will end his tour of duty on Aug. 5.

Santos said another coach from the Hong Kong-based soccer school is set to arrive on Aug. 8 to replace Tang.

JOETEN

From Page 32

7.3 seconds left, giving them a chance to force overtime.

Rasa then managed to get a hold of Michael Achas' inbound pass to Richard Cruz at the baseline. He was already losing his balance and with quick thinking, let the ball bounce to Cruz to go out of bounds and give possession back to Joeten less than five seconds left in the game.

Arciaga, after receiving the inbound pass, just dribbled the ball as the buzzer sounded.

McDonald's even led by 5 points, 26-21, with 2:01 left in the second period but Joeten went on a closing 7-0 spurt to enjoy a slim 28-26 halftime edge.

McDonald's kept the game close and always managed to come back when Joeten was about to pull away. Joeten, however, showed endgame poise.

Alex Lauron paced Joeten with 14 points followed closely by Arciaga's 13 markers. Juanito Sambile and Sidney Quan scored 9 and 8, respectively while Rasa and Ferdie Tobias had a quiet 6 each.

Michael Achas and McLane Achas tallied 16 and 15 points apiece for McDonald's.

Earlier, Marianas Brokers Inc./KFC banked on Angelo Fernando and Ivan De Vero's game-long brilliance in pulling off an 86-78 win over Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Fernando scattered 27 points to lead three other MBI players that turned in double digits. De Vero finished with 20 markers, while White Capalad and Perry Inos made 15 apiece.

Eugene Manglona and John Santos scored more than half of CUC's points. They combined for 46 while Simada Iramk had a quiet 11 points.

Action continues tonight with MBI/KFC taking on Docomo in the 6:30pm first game, while opening-day winners Mariana Resort and Tan Holdings clash in the 8pm match.

On Monday night, Tan Holdings battle Cape Air at 6:30pm while Saipan Ice takes on CUC at 8pm.

First Game

MBI/KFC 86 – Fernando 27, De Vero 20, Capalad 15, Inos 15, Trajano 6, Sitchon 3.

CUC 78 – Manglona 25, Santos 21, Iramk 11, Nunez 8, Madracheluib 5, Benavente 4, Camacho 2, Masga 2.

Scoring by quarters: 27-16, 43-37, 62-57, 86-78.

Second Game

Joeten 59 – Lauron 14, Arciaga 13, Sambile 9, Quan 8, Rasa 6, Tobias 6, Villegas 3.

McDonald's 56 – Mi. Achas 16, Mc. Achas 15, Gaspar 7, Gapor 6, Jo. Achas 4, Ayuyu 4, Ch. Achas 2, Cruz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-16, 26-28, 42-40, 59-56.

LEAGUERS

From Page 32

defeated host Maine, 17-12, in nine innings. They lost to U.S. West, 2-17, and Canada, 1-10.

The CNMI, in its first World Series trip in 2004, also finished with a 2-2 record when they scored a 10-8 win over host Maine and squeezed out a 6-5 decision over U.S. South. They dropped consecutive matches against U.S. West, 3-7, and Canada, 1-4.

Camacho is hoping that the current roster of 15 players would get the chance to turn things around once they open their World Series campaign against Europe-Africa representatives Lazio League of Italy on Aug. 2.

"As the designated captain and leader of the team, I want them to follow me. We need to do our best and work together for us to win," said Camacho, who was the strikeout king with 57 in the last Saipan Senior League season.

"Last year, the trip to Bangor was long and we failed to win a game. Hopefully, the result would be different this time. We worked hard every game but errors killed our chances." "The less errors we commit or no errors at all, the better chance for us to win," added Camacho, who started playing baseball when he was four years old.

Reyes and Aguon want to also contribute to their team's cause in any way they can.

"We need to hit. And I think I could help the team win in batting and driving in runs," said Reyes, who added that Maine's cold weather greatly affected their game.

"It's the World Series. All the best teams and best players are there. I waited for a long time to play in the World Series. We need teamwork to win games," Aguon said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	57	43	.570	—
Baltimore	51	49	.510	6
Toronto	51	51	.500	7
Tampa Bay	51	52	.495	7½
Boston	44	58	.431	14

Central Division

Kansas City	61	39	.610	—
Minnesota	52	48	.520	9
Chicago	49	50	.495	11½
Detroit	49	52	.485	12½
Cleveland	46	54	.460	15

West Division

Houston	57	45	.559	—
Los Angeles	55	45	.550	1
Texas	48	52	.480	8
Seattle	46	56	.451	11
Oakland	45	57	.441	12

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	53	46	.535	—
New York	52	49	.515	2
Atlanta	46	55	.455	8
Miami	42	59	.416	12
Philadelphia	38	64	.373	16½

Central Division

St. Louis	64	37	.634	—
Pittsburgh	59	41	.590	4½
Chicago	53	47	.530	10½
Cincinnati	45	54	.455	18
Milwaukee	44	58	.431	20½

West Division

Los Angeles	57	45	.559	—
San Francisco		56	45	.554½
Arizona	49	51	.490	7
San Diego	48	53	.475	8½
Colorado	43	56	.434	12½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saipan International Fishing Tournament Awards Banquet

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Captains and crew of some of the Guam boats that competed in last weekend's 31st Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament pose for a group photo during Monday night's awards banquet at the Pacific Islands Club-Saipan.

The crew of the *Tweety* received a special prize after placing fourth in the Billfish category with a 128-lb catch. They lost to the Emmanuel by 1 lb.

Emmanuel captain Mike James, right, thanked the organizers and participants for another successful fishing tournament.

The boat crew of *CM 3828 PU* came in third in the Mahi category with an 11.0-lb catch.

Acting governor Ralph DLG Torres, right, awards the top Marlin prize to the *Aquaholics* composed of captain Tony Flores, and anglers Nobert Diaz and Luis Manibusan.

The Marianas—composed of captain Jesus C. Muna, anglers Joseph "JJ" Muna, Joseph "J-Boy" Muna, and Antonio Santos—came in second with a 12.2-lb mahi.

The *Zeppelin* went home with the heaviest wahoo at 31 lbs.

The *Islander* crew receives their prize and trophy after bringing in the heaviest skipjack that tipped the scales at 18.2 lbs.

The *Amazing Grace* of boat captain Tony Scragg, and anglers Tom Coleman, Herman Guerrero, and John Guerrero caught a 26.8-lb wahoo to beat the *Emmanuel* by 0.25 lbs.

Blu By U captain Dr. Hoa Nguyen, left, celebrates with his daughter Bao-Thanh, second left, and anglers Johnny Cruz, Joe Malicsi, and Kerry Cutting after placing second in the Billfish category. Dr. Nguyen topped the 2004 edition with a 519.40-lb catch.

St. Patrick's two-member crew of Romie Entiendezand Danilo Salinas ruled the Mahi category with a fish that weighed 13.5 lbs.

Brady fights on, files lawsuit to stop suspension

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Santos enjoys no soccer for few days

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong technical director Leslie Santos hasn't been thinking about football for almost a week now since arriving on Saipan last week.

Santos, one of Hong Kong's best attacking midfielders, arrived on Saipan last July 24 for a weeklong vacation under the invitation of Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan.

"So far, I've toured the island. Went to Managaha. Watched a magic show. Rode an ATV. And swam with some marine animals at Sea Touch. As much as possible, I want to try everything. I'm on vacation, no work or soccer for a few days," said Santos, who is of Portuguese descent but was born and grew up in Hong Kong.

Santos first visited Saipan four years ago when he conducted clinics and training sessions as part of NMIFA's partnership with Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong.

"The first time I was only here for five days. It was all work as part of our arrangement with NMIFA. We send

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JON PEREZ
Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong technical director Leslie Santos chases the ball as he joined the CNMI men's team's training session yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex football field.

Joeten slips past McDonald's

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Joeten Enterprises needed one last defensive stand in the closing seconds to escape with a 59-56 decision over McDonald's in the 2015 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Wednesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Joeten's win erased the memory of a 60-88 crushing it suffered against Tan Holdings on opening day while McDonald's dropped its second straight game.

Veteran Steven Rasa, quiet offensively, stepped up defensively and foiled McDonald's' attempt to send the game into overtime.

Joeten was holding on to that slim 3-point lead after McLean Achas completed a 3-point play off a foul by Juanito Sambile with 22.7 ticks left in the game.

In Joeten's next offensive play, Sherwin Gaspar read perfectly Michael Arciaga's pass that was intended for Lauron and quickly ran toward McDonald's' frontcourt. He issued a pass to Gil Gapor, who fired from 3-point range but the ball missed its mark.

A mad scramble for the loose ball followed and the ball went out of bounds with a Joeten player last touching it that allowed McDonald's to keep possession with

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JON PEREZ
Gil Gapor of Team McDonald's, right, tries to prevent Joeten Enterprises' Sidney Quan from going baseline in their game last Wednesday night in the 2015 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League at the TSL Sports Complex.

Returning players hope to lead NMI Senior Leaguers

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Last of three-part series

Returning players Nathan Camacho, Jobe Reyes, and Craig Aguon are hoping to help end the CNMI's losing streak in the Senior League World Series, which starts on Aug. 2 at the Shawn T. Mansfield Stadium in Bangor, Maine.

Franko Nakamura is another member of last year's Senior League World Series squad along with Brandon Pua, Virgil Secharmidal, Joaquin Chong, Franklin Lizama, Anthony Agulto, Aurel Mendiola, Ethan Babauta, Lorenzo Sebaklim, Henry Lizama, Roke Tenorio, and Richard Atalig completing the CNMI team's World Series-bound roster.

NAME: **Jobe Reyes**
POSITION: **Second base**
AGE: **16**
VILLAGE: **Dandan**
FAVORITE TEAM: **Boston Red Sox**
FAVORITE PLAYER: **Dustin Pedroia**

NAME: **Craig Aguon**
POSITION: **Third base/pitcher**
VILLAGE: **Airport Road**

NAME: **Nathan Paul P. Camacho**
POSITION: **Pitcher/first base**
AGE: **16**
VILLAGE: **Tottotville**
FAVORITE TEAM: **Boston Red Sox, New York Yankees**
FAVORITE PLAYER: **Mike Trout**

The CNMI, which represented the Asia-Pacific region in 2010 and 2014, is now 0-8 in its last two World Series stints and has not won a match since pulling off a 5-4 decision over U.S. South representatives Cartersville Little League of Cartersville, Georgia on Aug. 14, 2007.

The ASPAC representatives finished with a 2-2 record as it also

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